

ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Winter 1987



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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

10 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ont. M5C 1J3

Telephone (416) 367-8075

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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Cover Photograph:

The historic barns at Burnside, near Maitland, Ontario, threatened with demolition. (See story under Maitland in Around and About Ontario).

P.J.S. Photograph, November 1987

EDITORIAL

Two issues ago I served as guest editor because our Editor-in-Chief was temporarily *hors de combat*, at least partially in a physical sense. But certainly not in spirit for Marion put together that and the next issue announcing, however, in no uncertain terms, that she thought she should give up her long-term responsibility and let it be handled by someone else for a change, looking forward herself, we subsequently learnt, to even more strenuous activity. Earlier this year our bird may have had a broken wing; now she has flown the coop. We wish her great success in her latest career of writer and await the outcome of her creativity.

It has seemed fitting under the circumstances to acknowledge Marion as Editor Emeritus, at least until no further objection should be received, hoping that we may have her contribution now and again. But it is mainly for her yeoman service over the years to The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Acorn in particular. Which led me to trifle with the idea of noting her as Emerita, and thinking of having to say yeowoman - then imagining that stance and stare which meant that our favourite liberated lady would not pander to such piffle. Marion Walker Garland is a hard act to follow and I do it with due humility as we still look for someone younger who will take on this voluntary job. For that, in keeping with the strength of the ACO, must be the position's status for the Acorn Endowment Fund has been set up to help defray the costs only of production and distribution. Likewise Branch editors and contributors have volunteered their help and the Editor-in-chief is part of that team. While on the subject of the Acorn Endowment Fund we still look for additional contributions to help top up the income necessary to cover our costs. As the fund builds up and the income with it so may Acorn expand modestly to provide more and varied information, news and commentary.

So if anyone is thinking of becoming Editor-in-chief it is a position which offers a chance for expressing opinion, for disseminating interesting and helpful information and for keeping out of mischief, in case you might have too little to do! Which leads on the mention of an Editorial Committee to meet early in December to discuss directions for Acorn in the future. Acorn will always have to rely on the contributions of its branch editors first and for others who wish to add articles related to building conservation procedures and practices, projects in hand or problems in the field. Just for a few ideas we would like to highlight, perhaps in a one or two-page illustrated centre spread, some of the many fascinating smaller communities across Southern Ontario which merit our notice. This might be called from A to Z: A is for Alton to Z is for Zephyr. At the present rate one round would take almost nine years!! There is also the idea of developing a major theme for at least one issue annually, especially to cover crucial subjects such as railway architecture or older industrial structures - seemingly the most fragile of our building stock as obsolescence takes its toll. We would appreciate your suggestions too, although to preserve our sanity we reserve the right to take on only those we can achieve as volunteers - unless of course, you make your written contribution directly to assist in production. All voluntary help is ever welcome.

Acorn, after this issue, will start its thirteenth continuous year, no mean achievement for a relatively small private organization like The ACO. You should be proud and continue to be part of it, raising as you do a hand or hat to John L. McFarland, the President who let it get off the ground, and all those who have kept the balloon aloft.

Finally it is almost the end of 1987 - and best wishes for the season to all our readers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Architectural Conservancy begins 1988 with many projects on its calendar. This past year has seen the initiation of an Acorn endowment fund: a Heritage Fund (which allows us to take swift action in times of trouble;) a series of proposals presented to the Ministry, including a strong plea for a comprehensive provincial listing of important buildings and sites, and a new address.

Our office is now located in the Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto M5C 1J3 - telephone 416 367-8075. Ann Hughson is our Executive Secretary and is available from 9 to 5 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We share this modest office with the Huguenot Society. We are hoping to staff Monday and Friday with volunteers and already Ms. Jean Stewart of Toronto has agreed to catalogue the Acorn. More volunteer help is welcome for specific projects.

The Annual Meeting will be in London, Ontario May 13, 14 and 15. The Advisory Board will meet on the Friday evening, and the council and others on Saturday. There will be a tour on Sunday. This will be a working meeting directed at information and problem-solving sessions. Members of our Advisory Board, made up of planners, architects, engineers, who give their time voluntarily, will conduct workshops and problem-solving sessions. There will be more sessions like Spencer Higgins's great success on "grouting" last year.

Since taking office last May, we have moved, made our presentation to the Ministry for the Heritage Review (1st part), and have had two one-day working seminars - one at Peter Stokes's at Niagara-on-the-Lake on the Acorn. (Peter returns as editor on the retirement of the indefatigable Marion Garland - who becomes the *éminence grise*. She is too valuable not to have about.) We welcome articles for the Acorn and invite submissions. Peter Stokes's address is 244 King Street, Box 170, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, LOS 1J0.

The second seminar was a one-day working session for all branches and members of the Advisory Board and Council at A.K. Sculthorpe's - when families were invited to bring a picnic and swim and conclude a perfect day weather and work-wise with a hospitable barbecue supervised by Bob Sculthorpe. We are planning to do something similar to this two or three times a year.

Like most volunteer organizations, we are constantly seeking funds. One of our distinguished founding members, Dr. Anthony Adamson, put together on my request a fund-raising letter which is different and original and I hope will bring your response. As a New Year approaches, a gift to our future through conservation of heritage is guaranteed by a gift to The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. It is an affirmation of a belief in the importance of the built environment and of the places of natural beauty which must be protected.

As President, may I thank you for your support and encouragement and wish you a happy and constructive new year.

BRANCH NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

QUINTE REGION

Archives building

The following item was printed in the County of Prince Edward Archives bulletin of September 10, 1987:

Roof

So thick is the vaulted brickwork overhead that our collections are simply not going to get dripped on during any ordinary rainstorm, no matter how leaky the roof of the Archives building becomes.

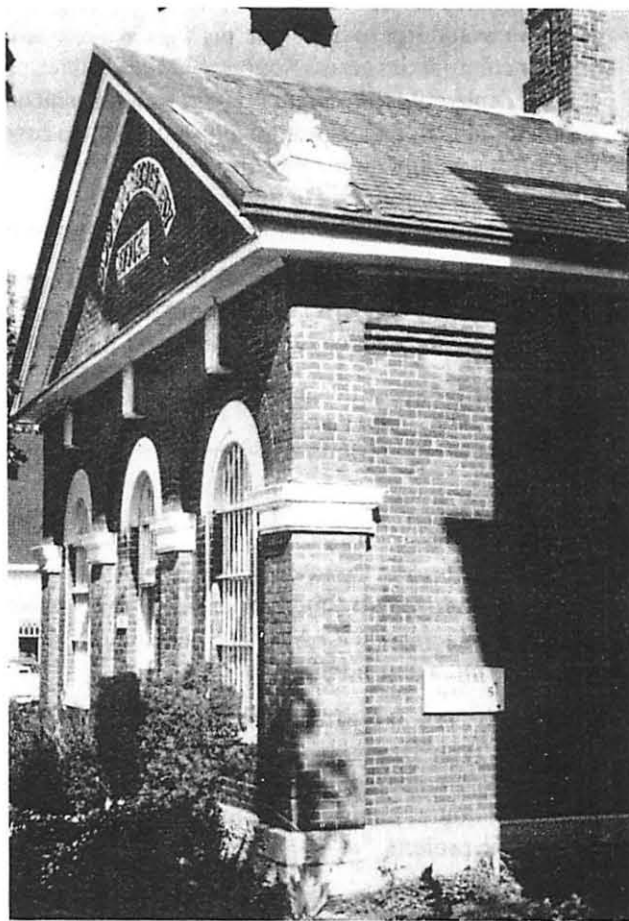
(The overhead ventilator in the Safe is another story: it drips profusely in cold weather, due to condensation.)

But the two forward corners of the roof do leak enough to make the paint peel indoors and to saturate the externally visible brickwork beneath the eaves. You can see this plainly in a prolonged rainstorm. The masonry at these two corners has been wet so often and so thoroughly that the mortar between the bricks has perished.

One presumes that the eaves trim is of wood, under its sheet-metal cladding, and that the roof timbers are of wood, beneath the slates and flashings, and that all these wooden parts are now severely decayed. It is really the flashings that leak, supposedly, not so much the slates.

Any arguments about the relative costs of slate versus asphalt shingles pale into insignificance in the face of the really big job of renewing all this rotted substructure.

The Archives building (it was the old Registry Office, built about 1871) is designated under Ontario's Heritage Act and is eminently eligible for any heritage grants that may be available, particularly if the work is done properly.



The Prince Edward County Registry Office, now Prince Edward County Archives. 334 Main Street, Picton, Ontario.

* photo taken September 1987, prior to alteration (removal) of slate roof.
Photo by G. Miramontes.

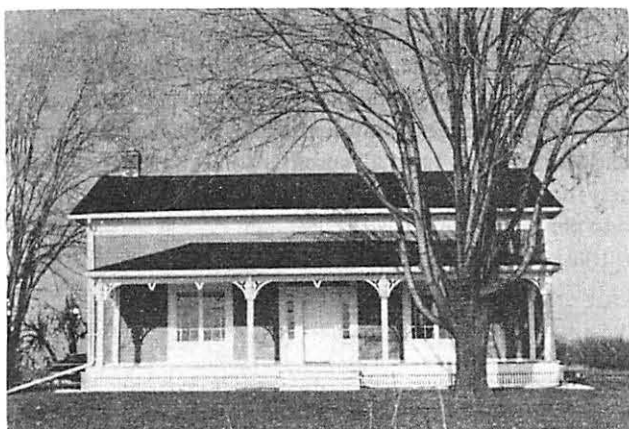
When repairs are undertaken, there should be no problem in setting the old slates aside and reinstalling them after the bricks have been re-laid and the wooden parts replaced.

And with a slate roof you can know that it will not need replacing in anyone's lifetime.



Charlebois Development, former site of Tecumseth Hotel, Picton, Ontario, view from Bridge Street.

Update: More than a merely satisfying answer has been found for the site of the former Tecumseth Hotel, at the mouth of Picton harbour. A simple but exciting design, which reflects the surrounding gables in the neighbourhood, is the work of a local architect, but credit is due in great measure to the developer of the property for his tenacity in the project (due to OMB hearings regarding objections to the rezoning, there was a lengthy and frustrating delay). The building responds intelligently and proudly to the demanding site, and all involved with this controversial corner can now pride themselves in a truly worthy addition to their townscape. Congratulations Picton!



Haight/Sutherland (Patterson) House at Niles Corners (near Wellington), Ontario. * Detailing to finished verandah.

Photo by G. Miramontes, November 16, 1987.

Update: The Haight/Sutherland (Patterson) House, Nile's Corners, Prince Edward County.

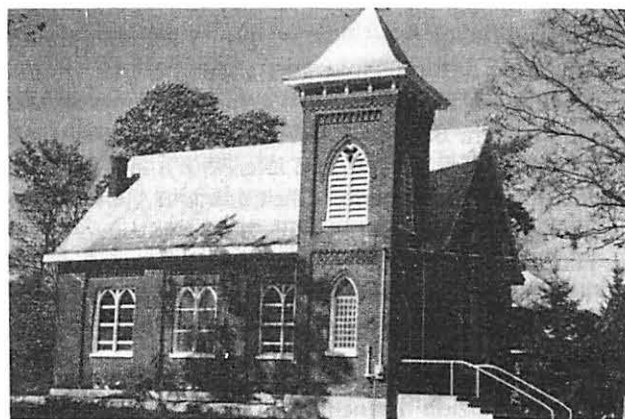
Restoration is now complete on this rural house, with the finishing of detail on the front verandah, as shown in the accompanying photograph.

Editor's Comment:

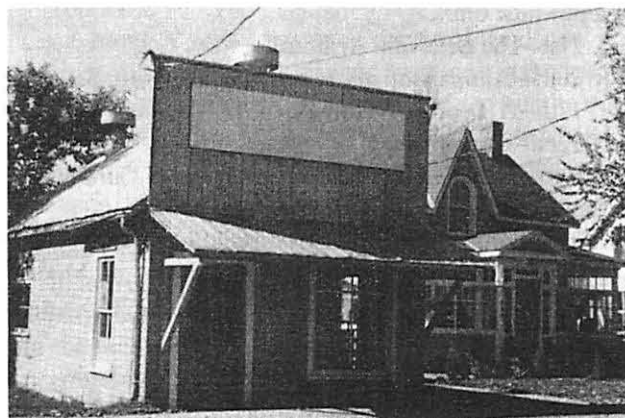
You may wish to compare this result with the design shown on page 2 of Acorn IX-3, Fall 1985

Foxboro

Ninety-one people or more took part in the Architectural Walking Tour of Foxboro's tree-lined street on Sunday, October 18, 1987. The fact that such a large group turned out to look and pay tribute to the place, on a chilly fall day that threatened rain, denotes a growing interest in our built environment in general, and some special sort of affection for Foxboro in particular.

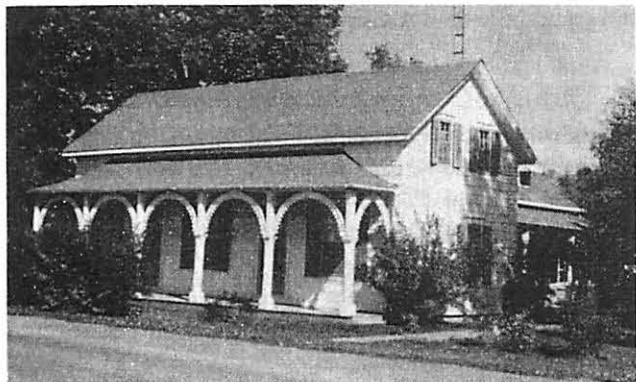


Presbyterian Church, 1903



False-front shop has brick bake-oven at rear.

Among the buildings enjoyed on the walk were the Presbyterian Church of 1903, the Former bake-shop and the Ashley Cottage illustrated here. Many others were also viewed including Emmanuel United Church the Smith Demorest House, the brick Orange Hall and other representative village buildings, mostly of frame, but in a variety of styles.



The Ashley cottage. Simplified Regency Cottage but the posts are Italianate and the cut-outs

Foxboro photos Oct. 5, 1987. Taken by R.C. Greig.

Walking Tour of Bath, November 15th

Our series of 'Third-Sunday Walking Tours' was hosted this month by the Bath LACAC, with a tour led by LACAC Chairman Cynthia Flavell, and later with a talk and slide presentation by Nick Adams of the Cataraqui Archeological Research Foundation. Mr. Adams is currently involved on the Planning Committee for the Loyalist Parkway, and spoke of this project as well as numerous archeological sites they have worked on in the area.

As pointed out by Julia Beck, our intern, the strength of the Quinte Region Branch lies in our walking tours, conducted on a monthly basis, so included below is our schedule of walks for next year. There is no charge, for everyone is welcome, and we invite visitors from other branches to join us as well.

Jan. 17th--AGM at Glanmore House in Belleville, followed by a pot-luck dinner;

Feb. 21st--The Belleville Armouries;

Mar. 20th--Comparison of Church Architecture in Belleville;

Apr. 17th--A Tour of Picton Harbour Architecture;

May 22nd--Cannifton;

Jun. 19th--Prince Edward County: Design of Gardens and Outbuildings, as related to Architecture;

Jul. 17th--Campbellford Industrial Buildings;

Aug. 21st--Prince Edward County: Trends in Modern Architecture;

Sept 18th--Waupoos;

Oct. 16th--Napanee;

Nov. 20th--Stirling; with guest Speaker Margaret Beckman on Carnegie Libraries.

Gilles Miramontes
Acting President

PORT HOPE

Wesleyville Church

A.C.O. Port Hope has been approached by members of the Save the Wesleyville Church Committee - a committee of former members of the church which was closed almost twenty years ago when Ontario Hydro moved into the area. By joining forces as a committee of Port Hope A.C.O., the Save the Wesleyville Church Committee hopes to persuade appointed trustees of the church to preserve this picturesque landmark. Other churches have been demolished in the surrounding township with nothing remaining to mark their site except a boulder and plaque. (See comment in Acorn regarding the loss of Morrish Church).

A meeting took place in July between former Wesleyville church members, who favoured demolition, and the Save the Wesleyville Church Committee under the aegis of Port Hope A.C.O. The meeting was chaired by Mel McHolm, a trustee of the United Church board. The upshot of this meeting was that the church trustees voted to table the issue for six months, during which time A.C.O. was to obtain estimates from three builders on the cost of restoring the church to minimal weatherproof condition, damage to the church having occurred from weather, racoons and neglect. Ontario Hydro in its efforts to be a good corporate citizen has offered funds to assist in the preservation of the church should a decision be made to give the building a historic designation. The church is one of only three remaining buildings which signify the original village, along with the school and the post office.

Port Hope Tours

Under the sponsorship of the Civic Garden Centre in Toronto, a busload of thirty people toured Port Hope's downtown area, St. Mark's Church, Trinity College School Chapel and five private gardens, on August 12th. The gardens visited after lunch at The Carlyle Restaurant were a water garden complete with a frog on a lily pad, a sunken garden, two large perennial and shrub gardens, and a colourful garden full of annuals. The owners of the gardens had worked very hard all summer to keep the weeds down and the lawns watered, not to mention coaxing the flowers into bloom for the occasion. The members of the group were enthusiastic about the tour and expressed their appreciation to the tour guides, A.K. Sculthorpe and Sandra Murray.

New Shops

Several new stores have appeared in the downtown area recently. Our two existing antique stores on Walton Street, Harvest Antiques and Smith Creek, have been joined by Arcadian Antiques (Smith Creek's neighbour to the west), and William Beamish House Antiques on John Street.

The Magpie now has a branch called Pips at 60 Walton Street and Periwinkles, a specialty shop, has taken the place of Natures Health Food.

Annual Barbecue

Bob and Nancy Fair again held the annual barbecue in their garden on Bedford Street. Over thirty members and friends attended and several people who were new to Port Hope became members of A.C.O. Bob and A.K. Sculthorpe were the lucky winners of the draw for a bottle of liqueur.

Façade Study

The LACAC sponsored Façade Study, funded jointly by the Port Hope A.C.O., The Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs presented the results to the town and the owners of downtown buildings at a gathering at the Council Chambers on August 27.

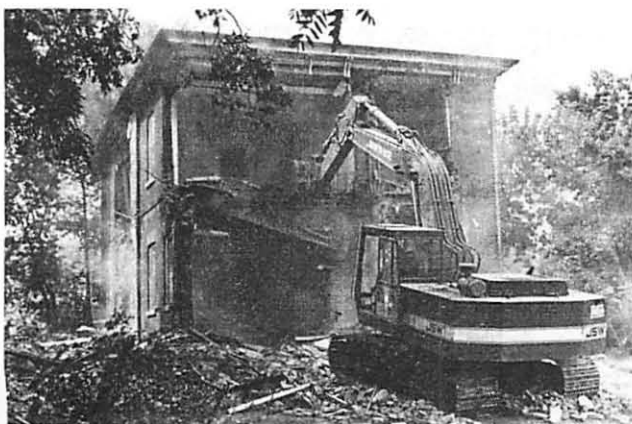
Building owners were presented with an individual maintenance guide for their buildings including recommendations for restoration, structural improvements and maintenance procedures.

The principals who carried out the study were in attendance and they made presentations on landscaping, storefronts, lighting and signage which were of practical value to most businesses along Port Hope's historical streetscape.

DURHAM

Perry House

On August 24, almost a year to the day since the move of Lynde House to Cullen Gardens & Miniature Village, another highly significant building was demolished ... to make room for a parking lot for a new medical building. The Perry House was built in the mid 1840s by the eldest son of Whitby's founder, Peter Perry, (the elder Perry's house was itself demolished less than 10 years ago.) Town officials were well aware that there would be opposition to demolishing this building and so made sure that virtually no one knew when it was to come down - LACAC was never informed, let alone consulted. The local newspaper, the Whitby Free Press, (owned by this writer) had in process at the time of the demolition the preparation of a set of conceptual drawings of what could be done with the site. These were published anyway as an example to the community of the opportunities which are lost when historic buildings are destroyed.



Demolishing Whitby's Peter Perry House built in 1847.

Courtesy Whitby Free Press

House Tour

The Durham ACO held a very successful house tour in Whitby on Saturday, September 12 in conjunction with Whitby's Downtown Heritage Day. More than \$5,000 was raised.

The Hermitage

The historic former gymnasium of Pickering College (the Quaker college now located in Aurora) was destroyed by fire set by "vandals" on Oct. 4. Following the destruction of the College's main building in 1905, the gymnasium had been converted in the 1920s to an opulent summer dwelling by the Ruddy family. Following the death of Anita Ruddy in the 1960s, the property was acquired by Runnymede Development. The building itself was relatively well preserved until recent years when vandals have been allowed to run rampant. A subdivision plan was recently submitted to the Town of Ajax which would have deeded the building back to the Town as part of a large parcel of parkland. However the building was by now in such shape that restoration would have been expensive and some councillors were calling for its demolition. Their prayers were answered.

Whitby Mainstreet Program

The Heritage Canada Mainstreet program is working well in Whitby and the development of new businesses in the downtown core is proceeding well. More than ever there is a realization that the Downtown's future rests primarily in the atmosphere created by its historic buildings. A recent commercial redevelopment consisting of four 1920s houses (2 moved from across the street where they were to have been demolished) won an Ontario Renews award. The Durham ACO is cooperating with the BIA and has offered money towards design work on downtown buildings.

Design Awards

The Durham ACO is instituting an annual design excellence award program to honour the best examples of 1) restoration, 2) adaptive reuse, and 3) complementary infill in Durham Region. Entries for the first award will be accepted next spring with the award being made in the fall.

Registry Office

Because of the incredible growth in Durham Region, the Land Registry office has been forced to find new larger quarters than the historic original building it was occupying. The fate of the building has yet to be decided but the Whitby Museum which was forced out of Lynde House when it was moved to Cullen Gardens has expressed interest in using the building.

Lynde House Update

In moving Lynde House to Cullen Gardens, the Town of Whitby had committed itself to the restoration and operation of the building as a museum in perpetuity. However, after negotiating all the land easements etc. and finalizing a deal with Cullen, they decided it was going to cost more than they had expected and decided to give the building to Cullen without any strings attached. To his credit, Len Cullen seems to have realized that Lynde House is not "just another

old house" and seems prepared to spend the money necessary to restore it sympathetically, albeit in a totally incompatible setting.

Oshawa CPR Station

The 1912 CPR station in Oshawa has been unused for several years and CPR is looking to have it demolished. Oshawa City Council has already given its blessing. The Durham ACO is looking into ways of focussing attention on the building which sits just a block away from Simcoe Street, the City's main N-S artery.

TORONTO REGION

Bill PR-57 Passes!

On Thursday, June 29, 1987, Private Member's Bill -PR-57 was proclaimed into law. With this legislation, demolition control has now been extended to non-residential buildings in Toronto, thus closing a gaping loophole in our heritage legislation. This bill was the subject of our Post-Card Campaign last winter and spring. All of you who sent in your post-cards, and those who helped out in many other ways, should be proud. You have made yourselves heard and have made a difference! Special thanks for distributing postcards go to the Architectural Conservancy London, the Women's Canadian Historical Society, and the Governor Simcoe Branch U.E.L.

The "New" Town - Buff Brick Toronto

Each fall over the next several years the Conservancy in Toronto will attempt to evoke through lecture series a significant era of our architectural past.

It is our hope that we can in this way recapture some of the flavour, the ethos, the quintessential dynamics of previous societies who have inhabited Toronto. Who lived where and why? What were their tastes, aspirations and fears?

We view this process, reaching outside the confines of architectural history, as necessary to achieve some understanding of our architectural evolution. Regrettably, our city has lost many of the buildings which could have provided important clues to where we have come from. Sometimes pictures are not enough.

This year we were pleased to offer, in conjunction with the Toronto Historical Board, a walking tour and a series of four lectures on Pre-Confederation Toronto.

On Sunday, August 30th, ACT president Alec Keefer conducted the walking tour of the "New" Town, starting at Clarence Square, Wellington St. West at Spadina, and finishing at Grange Park. Each participant was given a copy of Bolton's 1858 map of the "New" Town, and discovered how many structures from this period miraculously survive.

The first lecture was given on September 1st by Pleasance Crawford, Garden Historian. Her topic was **The Picturesque and The Not-So-Picturesque: Elements of Landscape Design in Pre-Confederation Toronto.**

On September 3rd, Alan Suddon, Founding Member of the Costume Society of Ontario lectured on **Dress and Fashion in York.**

Lecture 3, On September 8, was given by Colin Rickards, Journalist and Historian. His topic was **A. R. Dunn, V.C., 1833-64: Canadian Regency Rake?**

Finally, on September 10th, Donald Webster of the Canadian Gallery, gave a lecture on **Furniture of the Canadian Regency.**

The lecture series was timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of John G. Howard's purchase of High Park, and thus all four lectures were given in the Gallery at Colborne Lodge, High Park. A reception followed each lecture.

More Late Summer and Fall Events

On Sunday, September 13th, many ACT members attended an "Open House" celebrating the fifth anniversary of Roy Thomson Hall. Even the backstage areas were included in the guided tours.

A boat tour of Toronto Harbour left from Harbour Castle Hilton dock, Queen's Quay on September 16th at 7:30 p.m. Mike Filey, well-known authority on Toronto's history and local media personality was our host. A good time was had by all.

On Friday, September 25th the third award in ACT's first series of twelve Awards of Merit was presented to the owners of the **Saturday Night** building, 511 King Street West. Following the presentation of the award there was a tour of the building and a reception.

So much interest in the Port Hope Country and Town house tour was expressed by our members that ACT decided to charter a bus to the event. What a pleasant way to spend the first Saturday in October!



Drawing courtesy of Mr. Christopher Shepherd

Saturday Night building, Toronto

The October ACT lecture was held at Enoch Turner School, King Street East. Mr. Alan Skeoch, educator, broadcaster and historian, spoke on the topic of school architecture in Toronto from 1851 to 1931, with the subtopic, "Culture or Kids?".

Schools were among the best buildings built in Toronto during this period. The lecture was accompanied by an exhibit of drawings of school structures from 1887 to 1931. The exhibit was curated by Michael Parke-Taylor, photo archivist at the Toronto Board of Education, with the support of Don Nethery, chief archivist.

In November, this year's B. Napier Simpson memorial lecture will be given by Professor Douglas Richardson of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Fine Arts. Professor Richardson, well-known long-time member of ACT is a leading architectural historian. His topic will be **Architecture and Politics: William Hay**. Hay was the designer of, among other buildings, St. Basil's church on Bay Street, and the original Gothic part of Oaklands, the home of de la Salle Institute on Avenue Road.

Derby Tavern to be Demolished

The accompanying drawing shows the proposed building which will be constructed on the south-east corner of King Street East at Parliament Street, replacing the Derby Tavern.

The ACT, in an attempt to encourage restoration of the original building requested that the ACO Advisory Council comment on the existing structure. Architect Howard Chapman twice inspected the building, accompanied once by structural engineer Morden Yolles who volunteered his expertise.

Unfortunately they have recommended against preservation. Their reasons include the extensive deterioration of the timber structure of the building, which would be prohibitively expensive to repair, as well as the damage wrought by years of neglect, haphazard renovations and additions. Also they are of the opinion that the building in its present state has too little architectural merit to justify the cost of saving it.



Scheme for south-east corner of King and Parliament Streets, on the site of the Derby Tavern.

We wish to express our gratitude for the part these men played in our attempt to retain this homely but historic structure.

The final solution shown represents the outcome after extended negotiations which took place between the project architects, Ron Thom Associates, the City, and the Toronto Historical Board preservation section.

Princess Margaret Hospital Relocation

At this writing the provincial government is proceeding at full speed with plans to relocate this cancer research and treatment facility to the west side of University Avenue between Hydro Place and Mount Sinai Hospital. In late July Ontario Health Minister Murray Elston confirmed the choice of site and added \$19 million to a previous provincial grant of \$133 million.

This project threatens the two existing Ontario Hydro buildings on the site as well as the park behind them. There has been some mention of recycling the existing buildings and incorporating them in the new hospital. However, the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Cancer Institute people overseeing the project seem to be only lukewarm to the idea. It is said that the hospital's floor space requirements are for a building approximately the size of Mount Sinai next door.



Ontario Hydro buildings, University Avenue, proposed location of new Princess Margaret Hospital complex.

This would preclude the incorporation of the Hydro structures into the new hospital and necessitate extending the building over the park to the rear.

Architect Eberhard Zeidler will design the new building. He was chosen from several architects interviewed by the hospital. In an interview in the Toronto Star on July 31st, he is quoted as saying, "The city isn't a museum, it's a living thing. You don't preserve regardless, but you do not wilfully destroy a thing. You explore the options."

The more southerly of the two threatened Hydro buildings is 610 University Avenue, designed by George Gouinlock* and built in 1915. Although it is now dwarfed by the newer hospital and Hydro towers surrounding it, it is a good Classical Revival building of the period.

To the north is 620 University Avenue, designed by Sproatt and Rolph, built in 1935 and added to in 1945. This is one of the better examples of Art Deco architecture in Toronto.

The park behind the two buildings is along the route of the now-buried Taddle Creek, and in this park is a magnificent chestnut tree which is reputed to be over 100 years old.

* Architect also of Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

HAMILTON-NIAGARA

While the Branch has been regrouping, local activities have been continuing. The Thomas B. McQuesten Awards for commendable conservation projects will have been made in November. The Annual General Meeting was also planned.

News of the region has more ups than downs it seems, which is a distinctly encouraging note. While consideration of James Street North as a Heritage Conservation District appears to have met some obstacles, the St. Clair Avenue area, an older residential neighbourhood east of Hamilton's central core, quietly assumed that status without opposition. Interesting that this was sought by local residents and support for extending the area is growing locally. Some wondered about James Street North when such amazing sections as the cohesive turn-of-the-century residential neighbourhood below the Mountain and off Aberdeen Avenue seemed a much more likely candidate, and had in fact been recommended by both LACAC and the Planning Department. But for political reasons the former was chosen to stimulate interest and improvement in the older commercial fringes. Sad that local opposition has thwarted the scheme.

Some news comes of the latest GO train extension and after much study it would appear that an entrance into Hamilton along the old Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway route through the Hunter Street tunnel now being

favoured might protect that Art Deco monument, the old T. H&B station. While that is perhaps the silver lining, the cloud still puts the old CN Union Station off James Street North somewhat in the shade again.

Dundas apparently is moving along with a Heritage Conservation District study of the old residential neighbourhood behind or to the north of King Street, a section well endowed with historic buildings. The outcome is eagerly awaited.

Meanwhile Niagara-on-the-Lake has its problems where a pro-development stance creates pressures in the old town area. The LACAC is kept hopping receiving applications for minor and major changes in the Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District while some owners and tenants seem unaware of the items of design and construction which come within LACAC's jurisdiction for comment and recommendation. There is a desperate need to inform those concerned of the objects and criteria related to a Heritage Conservation District: other LACACs similarly involved please take note.

In the Niagara region the Welland Canals Society is mounting a well-organized campaign to have the old parts of the system (we are now operating on the fourth stage from the early twentieth century with even later modifications) developed as an interpreted historic waterway to become a major tourist attraction. This takes in the earlier routes of the First and Second Canals of the 1820s - 30s and 1840s respectively and the Third of the 1880s which deviated substantially from the other two, although all terminated in Port Dalhousie on Lake Ontario at the lower end. Ramifications include not only the routes to Port Colborne on Lake Erie, but the Chippawa Creek connection from Port Robinson to the Niagara River and the old Feeder Canal from Port Maitland at Dunnville on Lake Erie to Welland. (See the reference to the last in Acorn about the Highway 3 improvements through Wainfleet.)

Smithville advertises itself as "The Hub of the Niagara Peninsula" and this important West Lincoln centre is a pleasant surprise on the Highway 20 route to Niagara Falls. However travelling that main road you will miss the delightful T., H. and B. station in the south end to the east of the road towards Beamsville. This is in romantic shingle style, could we call it "Chateau Style" with its corner turret, so beloved of railway engineers in the late nineteenth and very early twentieth century. Grimsby's second Grand Trunk Station still serving on the CN Honeymoon Special Line is yet another example which comes to mind. But Smithville Station is an excellent example and largely intact. It is endangered, however, and threatened with demolition. The West Lincoln Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Ellenor Black, RR3 Wellandport, Ontario, L0R 2J0, Telephone (416) 386-6438 is appealing for help and suggestions. Being a frame building perhaps the station could be moved aside to new ground beyond the railway's bounds while an appropriate use can be set for it.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE



Restoration of Galt Woollen Factory

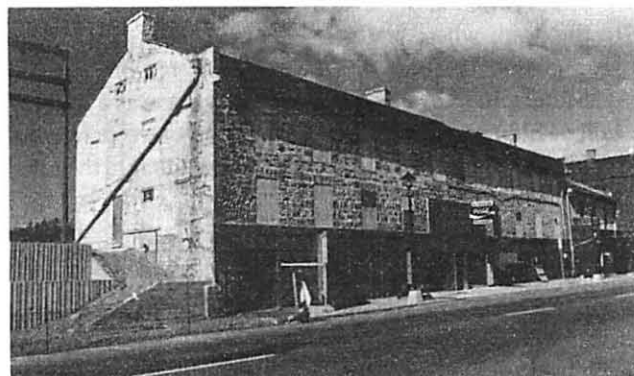
Sometimes the rewards for doing things right seem pretty remote. One can't blame architect Carlos Ventin for feeling that way about the restoration of the old woollen mill on Water Street, South, in Cambridge - Galt. Earlier this year, Ventin entered into an agreement to purchase the building from the Grand River Conservation Authority. A feasibility study completed in September 1985 had estimated the cost of exterior restoration and interior conversion at \$417,250, but additional structural work not previously identified and a 20% increase resulting from changes in Market conditions has caused costs to soar. Ventin says he has invested \$700,000 in the project to date. Grant assistance, including a \$40,000 grant pledged by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, has been slow coming through. Contributions of \$4,000 from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and \$1,000 from Heritage Cambridge, meant as tokens of support, now seem negligible. Was it worth it?

The old "Galt Woollen Factory", designated for both architectural and historical reasons, was constructed as two adjoining buildings between 1843 and 1851 in a style that may be called vernacular Scottish Georgian, for want of a better term to describe its simplicity, symmetry and pleasing proportions. Built by Messrs. James and Robert Webster, outstanding stonemasons in this area, the mill buildings mark the beginning of a continuous construction into the commercial core of the City.

An engine house, office, cloth rooms and dying house which were once part of a mill complex have been lost, but the original buildings remain, the oldest survivors of a textile industry which in the nineteenth century, gained for Galt the title of "the Manchester of Canada West".

The division into two buildings is only apparent on the river side, and certainly that was the more attractive view before restoration began. By the time the G.R.C.A. had purchased the mill and was preparing to tear it down to make way for flood-proofing work, the building had acquired the self-explanatory title of "The Purple Pool Hall". Besides purple and green paint defacing the stonework, windows had been boarded up or filled in with concrete block and the ground floor front had been "modernized". The G.R.C.A. were understandably dubious about its chances for resale. None the less, the City of Cambridge, at the urging of the LACAC and the Riverbank Advisory Committee, convinced the G.R.C.A. to hold off demolition until a feasibility study was carried out. The ensuing proposal call eventually led to Carlos Ventin's scheme to convert the ground floor into office and commercial space and the two upper storeys into quality apartments.

Before this proposal could be put into effect, the essential flood control work had to be carried out. A major constraint of the project had been that Mill Creek actually flows



Galt Woollen Factory: just before work began.



Galt Woollen Factory: exterior work almost complete

through and under the building on its way to the Grand River. Flood control required that a pumping station be constructed over Mill Creek. As a result, the central portion of the mill is now occupied by a self-contained pumphouse with its own power source and fire access, a building within a building.

As soon as the flood work was out of the way, Ventin's crews moved in. Cleaning and repointing the masonry began and reconstruction of the roof. Damage to the roof structure from an earlier fire proved to be more serious than originally estimated, one of the major causes of escalating costs. Rebuilding complete, the mill was capped with a handsome red metal roof. Because the roofline of the southern section provides greater height, two apartments on the third floor of that portion of the building have living rooms with cathedral ceilings and loft bedrooms. To make the third storey usable at all, several 18 inch steel beams had to be removed. These had been installed when other supports were hacked out to clear space for a pool hall below, but had never been properly fixed in the building.

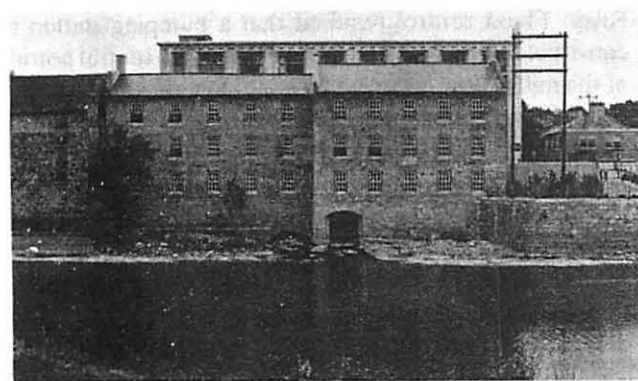
Sixty-seven window openings were fitted with wood reconstructions of the original sash pattern of six over six, glazed with Thermopane. The ten windows across the river-side of the building at the first storey level conceal a concrete flood wall within.

Over the years, the level of Water Street had been raised to the point where it was necessary to step down to enter ground floor premises in the building. (Oddly enough, a one-time tenant in that subterranean zone was a night club called "Stairway to Heaven"). Since the centre section of the outer wall had been removed, Ventin rebuilt it in the form of an arcade, echoing the arch where Mill Creek enters the river on the other side of the building. The result is a small fore-court on a level with the proposed shops and offices.

When the work is completed, the building will provide four two - bedroom and four one - bedroom apartments, 1225 square feet of commercial space and an 875 square -foot office for Mr. Ventin. Although he doesn't expect the venture to make a profit for a decade, he has turned an eyesore into a major asset to downtown Cambridge.



Galt Woollen Factory: interior flood wall installed



Galt Woollen Factory: new sash in place

BRANT COUNTY

Members and friends of the Architectural Conservancy, Brant County Branch, enjoyed a summer outing to the Elmira area. A delicious luncheon at the Stone Crock was followed by a brief tour of the downtown and older residential sections of the town. Of interest to the group were the many Queen Anne Revival style residences with upper balustrades, shingled gables, and main floor windows with rounded window heads. Some of the original business area streetscape remains, but streetscape vistas have been reduced by modern corner structures in several instances.

A guide supplied by the local Chamber of Commerce explained area customs to the group, including school, wedding, mutual help, clothing, food and other local Mennonite practices.

Visits to a former two-room school, Buggy Factory, 1850 farm and West Montrose covered bridge provided further insight into the life and customs of the area. Of special note at the schoolhouse was an elaborate tin ceiling. Glass doors, re-finished floors and spectacular windows were also noteworthy, as were the collectibles, antiques and quilts of the Smith family owners. Frames, upholstery, shafts and painting procedures at the factory were of interest to the group. A white buggy used for weddings delighted the younger members of the party.

The old stone farmhouse was typical of the 1850s, with deep window embrasures, two-over-two paned windows, wooden floors in the old part of the house, and painted walls in the new. The latter had an interesting pattern applied by hand. Both parts of the house, that of parents and that of grandparents, had as a main feature a well-kept cookstove. A dock works and barn on the premises were also of interest.

Spring programs for the Branch included a demonstration woodstripping afternoon at the St. Paul Ave. Branch library, convened by vice-president Robert Miss. Mrs. Blakeley-Jackson of Burford was the speaker. A tour of the Hexco renovations at 200 Grand River Avenue also took place this spring. Mr John Hexamer, developer of the project, gave a tour of the premises and provided refreshments for the group. He was presented with a letter of commendation for his efforts in maintaining part of Brantford's heritage by Local Council A.C.O. Representative Reginald Schram.

Brant County research in 1987 included a survey of the county and its general history. Architectural examples are available in slide form for those interested. The local Branch now has a collection of over 2000 slides.

The area was first carved out of the wilderness in 1784, when Captain Joseph Brant received a grant of land from Governor Haldimand. Brant and his followers, Mohawk Indians from New York State in the new United States of America, had fought on the British side in the Revolutionary War, and had received a grant of land six miles wide along the Grand River from Dunnville to Galt. The sale of these lands provided annuities to members of the Six Nations who followed Brant to the new territories. Unfortunately payment was irregular and many claims have not been settled amicably to this day.

One such land parcel was purchased near the present town of St. George in 1816 by the Honourable William Dixon. He in turn sold to settlers named Wilson, Van Every, Howell and among others, German ancestors of area residents to this day. In 1817 a grist mill was established. Henry Gardner set up a sawmill while the Governor's Road, named after John Graves Simcoe, was cut through the forest north of Brantford near Paris.

Indian trails linked early settlements and often became roads at a later date. One such bordered the river, leading to the villages of Onondaga and Middleport, to the south-east of Brantford. During the War of 1812 many of the trails became military roads, including that from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Detroit. This road went through Burford where the Yeigh family had established itself.

In 1837 rough, corduroy roads were superseded as a method of travel in the area by barge and boat. These were borne by canal waters, brought through the engineering magic of William Hamilton Merritt, through central Brantford from the river at Cainsville. Goods could thus be shipped to Dunnville through the 5 locks (there were also three dams) in 24 hours.

The demise of the canals was brought about by the cost of repairs, as time went on, and by the growth of the railroads. Roads must have been a sorry sight, with stage coach passengers alighting to help extricate the horses from between the logs of the corduroy road. Augustus Jones was one of the early surveyors, and it was said that he surveyed local roads through swamp land in order to preserve his own property from encroachment.

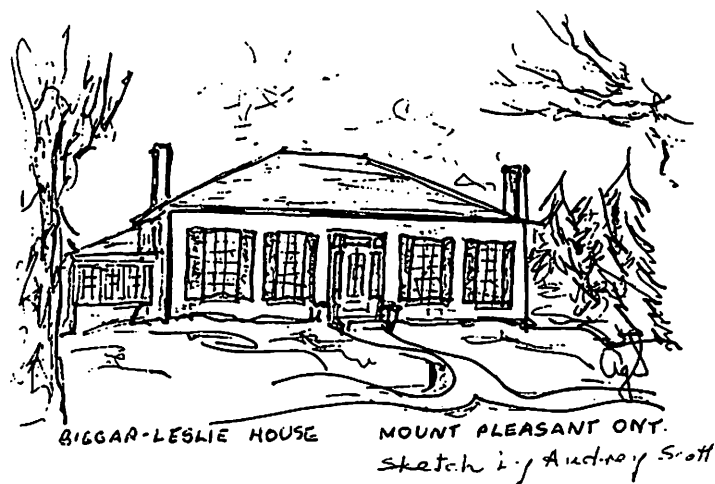
His son, Peter Jones, was one of the early missionaries among his own people, the Mohawks. Peter built 'Echo Villa' on Colborne Street East about 1851. Business in Cainsville was thriving at that time, with factories for matches, apples, rope, soap and harness. Joseph Brant had property in the area, as did Joseph Lang (Langford) in 1810, and Joseph Brown.

Tuscarora Township, to the south-east of the county, was taken from Wentworth county and is the only section, including the reservation, remaining in Brant of the Indian lands. Early buildings to the east of Brantford are Her Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks, St. Paul's Church, Middleport, St. Paul's on the Six Nations Reservation. Sour Springs was named for the acid water.

Mount Pleasant, to the south west of Brantford, boasts several early buildings. The area, on the military road, was pillaged in 1812. The Wilson home, All Saints Anglican Church, The Biggar-Leslie home, are very early buildings. The town was founded in 1789 by Henry and Amos Sturgis. A number of fine residences were built here in the 40s, the Townsend-Knoll House, Brucefield, the Tennant-Schwabb House, the octagon converted to a restaurant, and several others.

Close to Mount Pleasant in the Farringdon Hill and also in the Dufferin area, settled the Inghamites, a religious group with roots in the Methodist faith. They founded Farringdon Church and also some of the industrial dynasties of the area.

In Burford, founded in 1793, we find Bethel Stone church with its classical pilasters, stone construction, and low classical pediment. Mount Vernon church has recently been moved. The Methodist Conference, first in the area, was



established under Rev. P. Whitehead. The Langdon baby was the first born in the Burford area. The Baptist denomination was established in 1835. The Temple House was built in the Loyalist style in 1851 on King Street, Burford.

Paris, the home of Hiram Capron and Penmarvian, his house converted by the textile magnate, Penman, was made famous architecturally by the cobblestone buildings of Levi Boughton. St. James Anglican Church is one of the cobblestone buildings of note. The former Arlington Hotel graces the main street in baronial splendour. One could wish that it had been restored with more compatibility. The 1817 Wolverton House is another Paris treasure.

Brant's ford itself boasted a blacksmith, a tavern, distillery, and sawmill. A famous shootout took place in 1826 on the Market Square. Lewis Burwell surveyed much of the county; at one time there were 30 taverns. Isaac Fairchild established, with the present Court House as County Seat. \$400,000.00 was borrowed to build a railway in 1853, while in 1905 the main line of the Grand Trunk was extended to Brantford.

The core area of Brantford was a favourite place for magnificent homes in the early days. As the city grew, 'suburbs' (now considered central) grew up around the river. These were East Ward, Chatham St., Erie Avenue, the Dufferin area, and the southern portions of William and Albion Streets.

Brantford, as already mentioned, became a manufacturing centre at an early date. Consequently the need for workers' accommodation was very great. Sections of East Ward, Eagle Place, Holmdale, and the core area itself produced modest versions of the Brantford Cottage and later the 'diamond cottage'. Two-and-a-half-storey narrow homes were also popular, and can be found along the north of Brant Avenue and in all the areas mentioned. In 1904 Franklin Grobb (1 Alfred, residence) drove the first 'model A' in the city. Keaton car manufacturers began in 1899. In 1844 Waterous stoves was established, while the Victoria Stove Plant was run by William Buck. Seed drills were manufactured by Jesse Wisener and company from 1872. A.



Harris began to manufacture farm implements on Clarence St. In 1891 the firm joined the Masseys, and in 1895 the Veritys became partners. In 1900 Brantford Coach and Body was established.

At the present time Brantford has an industrial park for new industry. However in the early days plants were set up all over the city, with workers' and manufacturers' houses nearby. This explains the growth of the city as it radiated from the core like the legs of a spider, with the three types of building construction in each area. Sometimes we forget the use of Shanks's mare for transportation in the early days. St. Josephs Textiles was another industry in 1872, while Harding Carpets established itself in Holmdale. Penman's Stoneware came along in 1872. With its industrial buildings, workers' and owners' residences it is easy to understand why Brantford, at the hub of Brant County, was called the Sheffield of the West.

Heritage Happenings 1987 have also included a number of other activities such as the 12 September afternoon with slide show in Brant Avenue United Church, a house tour of 26 William Street accompanied by a walking and driving tour of William Street.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

The annual branch meeting in June was held in St. Jacobs at the Meetingplace, a Mennonite interpretation centre, which offers a visual display of the history of the community and contribution of the Mennonites to the area.

Tom Cruickshank, author and managing editor of *Canada Century Home* magazine, gave a slide presentation on "Century Homes – Design and Adaptability." He illustrated how old houses from several communities in Ontario were authentically restored or carefully altered to render a pleasing complement of old and new.

Dinner that evening was held at Benjamin's Restaurant and Inn, St. Jacobs. This recently restored inn is the 135 year-old Farmers' Inn, a stagecoach stop on the Arthur Road during the latter half of the 19th century. Stagecoach

lines also carried the mailbags in this era: two local companies were Sam Cornell's line from St. Jacobs to Galt, and Captain Thomas Smith's line from Winterbourne to Conestoga, then to St. Jacobs and Waterloo. The site of the Farmers' Inn was chosen opposite the grist mill built by Jacob C. Snider in 1851 on the south bank of the Conestoga River. His entrepreneurial endeavours in the village – sawmills, flour mill and woollen mill – drew many farmers and tradesmen to the village to conduct their affairs. The Farmers' Inn, later called the Dominion Hotel, relied on Jacob Snider's customers and stagecoach passengers for most of its business in the early decades of the village's history.

See Bill Moyer's *Waterloo County Diary*.
Kitchener: CHYM. c. 1970 (Wm. G. Moyer).

In mid-September, our branch enjoyed an evening picnic in Victoria Park, Kitchener, which celebrated its Grand Opening on Civic Holiday, August 27, 1896. Lorna Ferguson, a resident of the neighbourhood, spoke informally on the history of the Park and recent developments threatening older homes in the area. A century ago, Jacob M. Staebler envisioned "Berlin's Beautiful Park" situated on low, swampy land owned by Samuel Schneider, grandson of Joseph Schneider, a founder of the community. A neighbour to the Schneiders along present day Queen Street South, Staebler, built his house in 1878 and named it "Buena Vista" as the view from the front window overlooked the expansive Schneider farm. With the purchase of 35 acres by the Town of Berlin, J.M. Staebler became President of the first Park Board. Approximately five acres of the acquired property was excavated for a lake. Two islands were formed: Roos Island named after another member of the Park Board, and Swan Island as swans and other waterfowl would nest there.

Roos Island, connected to the main park with an iron footbridge, was chosen as the site of a bandstand finished in time for the Official Opening. Both the bridge and bandstand lasted over 75 years. The iron bridge, condemned as unsafe, was demolished in 1974. The present bridge has retained the steel structure with a metal plate bearing the date 1896 and engineer, Wm. L. Law. The bandstand, also fallen into disrepair, was torn down and replaced in 1986 with a reproduction drawn by architect John Clinckett who shared his expertise in restoration work with our branch last spring.

After the opening of Victoria Park, Berlin's German-speaking Concordia Club erected a bust of Kaiser Wilhelm I on a granite base, overlooking the lake. A plaque bearing a profile of Bismarck's head was mounted on the base of the monument. In 1909, the Princess of Wales Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire commissioned an Italian sculptor to cast a bronze statue of Queen Victoria at a cost of \$2,800. A bronze lion was tossed into the bargain for \$98 to cover shipping costs. Caspar Braun, a local contractor, constructed the base for \$2,450. Then for five years, the royal relatives reigned harmoniously over Victoria Park.



New octagonal bandstand flying the Union Jack.
Grey columns support slate roof.
Cream coloured fretwork and railing with dark green trim.
Recessed lights in "knotty" ceiling for evening concerts.

With the outbreak of World War I, patriotic sentiment –pro-German or pro-English – divided loyalties and opinions, when a declaration of war by the old homelands embroiled the citizens of Berlin in European affairs. For the years of the War, tensions and hostilities erupted frequently in the city.

One story in local history concerns the overthrow of the Kaiser. Within a month of Declaration of War, a pro-German supporter replaced the Union Jack in Victoria Park with the German flag; in retaliation, several fellows converged on the Kaiser's bust, tore it from its base, and pitched it into the lake. When the bust was retrieved the next day, it was taken from the park, never to return.



Side and rear view of Schneider Haus showing cultural and educational extension under construction (summer '87).
Pedestrian access to Victoria Park now complete.

Subsequent tales and rumours, mixed with some facts, have pointed to a solution to the mystery of the purloined Kaiser. First, the damaged bust was repaired at a cost of \$17.70. Then the Concordia Club requested that the bust and German flag remain at their quarters until the end of the War. Halfway through the War, when tensions flared again over a proposed change of name from Berlin to Kitchener, some soldiers from the 118th Overseas Battalion, during acts of mischief and vandalism, took the bust to training camp in London, Ontario. Here the bust was melted down, its metal rolled in sheet and formed into napkin holders bearing the crest of the 118th. Fifty years later, one napkin holder was donated to the Doon Pioneer Village (now Doon Heritage Crossroads) by an ex-officer of the 118th Battalion. Others are scattered throughout the country as mementoes of that stormy period seven decades ago.



Inscription under Queen Victoria
Victoria, Queen, Empress.
A model wife and mother.
Beloved, admired, revered.
She will live in the hearts of her people.

Since 1914 then, Queen Victoria has held "sovereign sway" over the park, surveying all passersby on the road. The lion below her lies at ease, and an artillery field gun, reminiscent of former disturbances, rests silent.

Over the last ten years, the City of Kitchener (incorporated September 1, 1916) ambitiously has reconstructed the lake bed and water channels to eliminate soil erosion along the banks and flooding in the neighbourhood. Extensive floral landscaping and the recent extension of the park to the

Joseph Schneider Haus invite all who come to relax and stay awhile.

Research material at Kitchener Public Library (Rare Book Room). Photos Joyce Arndt.

LONDON REGION

An Old Kind of Walk

The London Branch held its fourteenth annual Geranium Walk last spring. The Geranium Walk, in which several buildings of historical and architectural significance are open to the public, constitutes our main project each year, and the continued success of these tours attests to the richness of London's architectural heritage, as well as to the hard work of successive organizers.

The walks, held on the first Sunday of June, get their name from the pots of geraniums set in front of each open building, and they generally rotate among the older sections of the city. The 1983 walk, for example, was in the "Old North" part of London; the 1985 walk was in the "Old South"; and walks in 1984 and 1986 were held in the central residential district — partly because both of these tours were organized around particular themes.

In 1984, the walk followed the recollections of Allen Talbot, describing sights along Dufferin Avenue sixty years before. Several blocks, for example, had been "reserved for trotters": "The two wheelers used to come down four and five abreast, never worrying about cross traffic because everyone knew you had to keep out of the way of the trotters." He also remembered the "uniformed maids (who served afternoon tea" in one of the houses along the way. Among the featured houses still reminding us of such



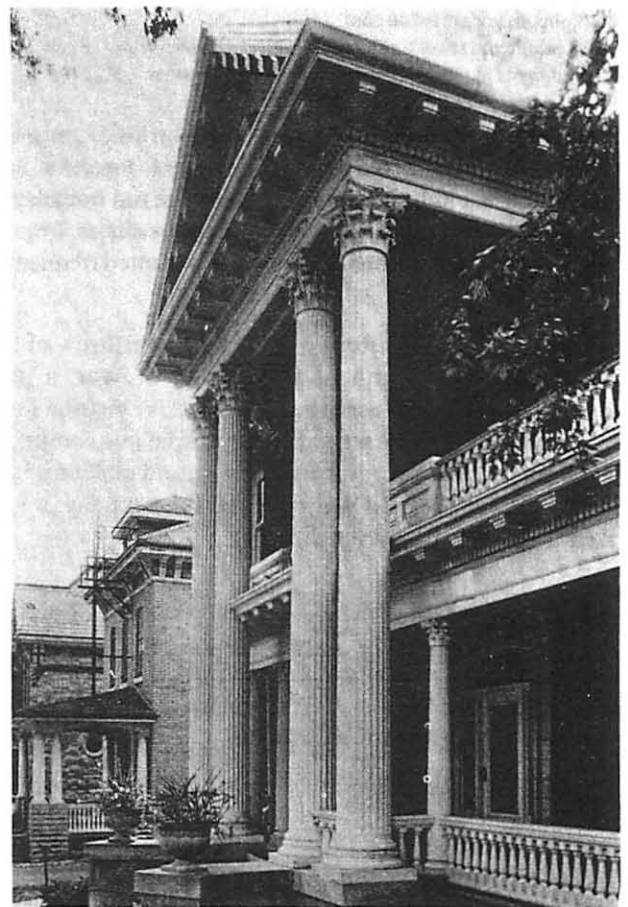
The Sister Houses, 368 and 370 Dufferin Avenue.

Sketch by Silvia Clarke

gracious customs were the "Sister Houses," so called because they were originally built, between 1865 and 1875, for the two daughters of Alexander MacLean. As Silvia Clarke's drawing shows, the sister houses are not twins: the house on the left, occupied by a descendant of Alexander MacLean, is larger, and some of its features, such as the door, are more elaborate. (The gable is a later addition.) The house on the right, now occupied by Anne and Ian

McKillop, has an elegance of its own, however, and the interior of the house contains much that echoes its exterior charm: antique furniture sits on original pine floors; a fireplace with a marbleized mantel warms the parlor; original mouldings and unusual wooden medallions adorn the walls and ceilings respectively; and a stained-glass window entitled "The Pinnacle of the Palisades," signed by local artist George St. George and dated 1896, lights the spiral staircase.

The 1986 walk featured buildings by a single architectural firm, the subject of a recent book on the area's architecture (*Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario*, by Nancy Tausky and Lynne DiStefano; published by the University of Toronto Press, 1986). Representative of the firm's work was the house designed for cigar manufacturer J.D. McDonald just before the First World War. McDonald was a partner in one of twenty-one factories then producing cigars in London, and his house indicates the success of that enterprise: of a rather daring design, in which a two-storey Colonial Revival portico adorns an otherwise Queen Anne façade, the building features such luxuries as hung tiles (instead of shingles), extensive hardwood panelling, and what is reputedly a Tiffany window. The rage for cigar smoking all but disappeared over the next decade, however, and McDonald's prosperity so declined that he was forced



The J.D. McDonald House

Photo by Ian MacEachern for *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario*

to desert his pre-war showpiece for more modest accommodations. The building now houses the legal firm of Siskind Cromarty, which has done a commendable job of preserving its original character.

The 1987 walk broke to some extent with tradition, by moving away from the core areas to what was the southern part of the old Westminster township (the neighbourhood now bounded by Emery Street, High Street, Commissioners' Road, and Edward Street). This area has undergone a different kind of development and achieved a different kind of architectural mix than one finds closer to the city's heart. Prior to the First World War, there were mainly farms here. It was not until the 1920s that the neighbourhood took on a more distinctly suburban look, and even then many of the new properties resembled country estates more than city lots. Subsequent development has dispelled the rural atmosphere, but one still finds reminders of a country setting in the unexpectedly large grounds, sometimes two or three acres in size, surrounding several of the older houses.

The walk featured some nineteenth-century farmhouses, all of which had been enlarged or remodelled as the owner's prosperity increased and the neighbourhood became more fashionable. The Lewis home at 385 Wortley Road, for example, is an Italianate farmhouse, built in the 1860s or 1870s, to which an imposing verandah with Ionic columns was added early in this century. At 169 Baseline Road, a Queen Anne farmhouse of the 1890s has been given interior details inspired by the Art Deco movement (the living room ceiling mouldings are especially interesting). These details have enabled the present owners, the Heveys, to blend modern furnishings with an historic setting.

Typical of the early twentieth-century homes on the tour was the Tudor Revival house at 119 Baseline Road, now owned by former MPP John White and his wife Bea. Built in 1920 for art dealer James Colerick (who gave Paul Peel's "After the Bath" its first London showing), the house displays a number of features that were popular in period houses of the 1920s: a sweeping, emphatically asymmetrical front gable, extensive shingling (here, the second storey is incorporated in the gambrel roof), an arched hood, supported by brackets, over the front door, casement windows, and a



119 Baseline Road.

stucco finish. The stucco, the window shapes and the pronounced gable make the house reminiscent of those seen in the background of, say, a Kate Greenaway drawing, and the extensive treed grounds enhance its storybook quality.

Despite the many interesting aspects of the Geranium Walks, it is sometimes tempting to wonder if the prodigious efforts put into organizing them are adequately rewarded. With two developer-giants currently competing to be king of the core area castle, and with Victorian buildings disappearing at an unprecedented rate, we sometimes wonder if our efforts at education are only lessons in futility.

But comments made by some of the walkers last spring helped to reassure us. One woman who was in fact a frequent visitor at several houses on the tour was elated at discovering interesting architectural details she had never noticed before, and one house owner actually called to thank the A.C.O. for the new insights about her own neighbourhood. Indeed, the popularity of these tours and the current high real estate value of London's old houses do suggest an increasing appreciation for our architectural heritage. The Goliaths of redevelopment may have to form an alliance with the pro-preservation Davids after all.

HURON COUNTY



Bank of Commerce, Wingham.

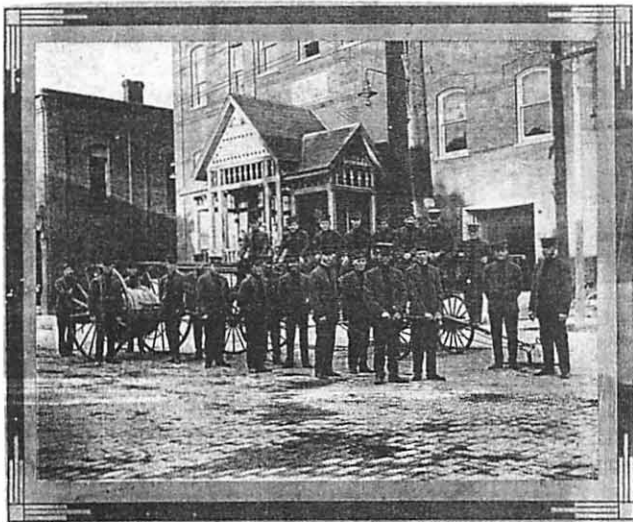
This highly decorative brick building has been recycled into offices with apartments on the upper floors.

Historical Porch being Reconstructed on Seaforth Town Hall

The historical porch is being reconstructed on the 1893 Town Hall in Seaforth. From a social standpoint, the original porch was a centre piece and focal point in Seaforth's commercial core. Architecturally, it provided a warm, humanizing entrance to the massive red brick Town Hall. As a late Victorian public building, the Seaforth Town Hall is a monumental and imposing structure with cold hard lines. The porch provided that essential warm welcome and entrance area. Nicholas Hill, Architect, did the restoration architectural work and Chris Borgal, Architect, is supervising the project. Jim Holland and Den Chapman are the construction contractors. The approximately \$30,000.00 project is being undertaken by the Town of Seaforth with financial support from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. It is hoped that the project will act as a catalyst to restoration and renovation work by the private sector as part of Seaforth's three year Main Street Canada Project with the Heritage Canada Foundation. This project is about to start its second year, and a number of interesting things are happening.

Seaforth's entire downtown core is also a Provincially designated Heritage Conservation District. Why not come and have a look!

For further information contact the writer, Tom Lemon, Mainstreet Co-ordinator, Town of Seaforth, Box 610, SEAFORTH, Ontario. N0K 1W0 (519) 527-0160.



Seaforth Town Hall 1893: an old photograph showing the porch, now being restored, almost new.

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

OUR INTERN REPORTS:

In the fall 1986 issue of *Acorn*, the president, Nicholas Hill, announced that the ACO had applied to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for a grant to retain an intern for

eight months. He stated "the intern is to carry out a vigorous evaluation of the ACO and to assist in mapping out its future direction." The grant was approved, the study period was extended to 12 months and work started in April, 1987. I was given the privilege and responsibility for carrying out this in-depth study of the ACO.

Questionnaire

The first stage of the study, a review of the organization, activities and attitudes of the ten branches, is nearly complete. The executives have been interviewed and branch minutes have been read, but there has been very little opportunity for branch members to contribute their ideas. The questionnaire which was distributed at the Annual General Meeting in Cambridge is, therefore, repeated in the centre of this *Acorn* issue. Please take time to fill it out and mail it, if possible with additional comments on your branch and the ACO as an organization, to me at 312 Cromwell Street, London, Ontario, N6A 1Z6.

It is important to have responses from a broad spectrum of the membership at this time when the future direction of the ACO is being considered. New members may think they do not know enough about the organization to answer a questionnaire. They may, in fact, know very little about its history or government but their opinions, expressing enthusiasm or disappointment on their first contact with the ACO, may be more valuable than those of some people who have belonged for many years.

The first two branches were formed more than twenty years ago; the newest (Quinte and Durham) started in 1983 and 1985 respectively. If we treat their names seriously, two branches (Cambridge and Port Hope) are concerned with architectural conservation in a city or a town, two others (Brant and Huron) extend their responsibilities to a county and the remaining six are regional branches. Branches exist in towns and cities, including Toronto, and in rural areas. These differences in age and location have influenced the membership and activities of the ten branches.

Membership

The total paid-up branch membership was approximately 1300 in May-July when the executives were interviewed. It will probably increase slightly by the end of the year as those who are tardy in renewing their memberships gradually send in their fees. These figures do not, of course, include sustaining members. Six branches (Brant, Cambridge, Durham, Hamilton-Niagara, Huron, North Waterloo) reported a membership of under 100; for three others (London, Port Hope and Quinte) it was between 100 and 200. Just over 40% of the total branch membership comes from Toronto.

Most new members are friends of members or join when they attend a lecture or walk. But new members are attracted in other ways: Brant, for example, asks visitors to sign a guest book, then puts them on a mailing list for a limited period; Durham asks members to pass on a well worded renewal notice to a friend; other branches send

letters to architects and owners of designated houses inviting them to join. Some branches are run much more formally than others. They have their own constitution, regular monthly executive meetings and a very firm policy on renewing memberships.

Branch Activities

In the last twenty years, branches have offered members and the public a great variety of lectures and tours. They have also been involved in many other activities - some may have been reported in the Acorn and forgotten, some may never have been reported at all, a few will be mentioned here.

Lectures

Some branches, including Toronto and London, have placed much emphasis on lectures as part of their programme and each year have scheduled at least six lectures, open to members and the public. In any year, the lectures organized by a branch may be on a variety of subjects or be closely co-ordinated. Quinte and North Waterloo are among the branches that have put together a series on one theme, then charged a fee to attend the series. Names of speakers and the subjects of their talks are frequently published in the Acorn; more information can be obtained from individual branches.

Tours

The ten branches together provide many different types of tours. For well over ten years, Port Hope and London have organized annual tours, described variously as house tours or walking tours, when several buildings, mainly houses, are open to the public. Although the Port Hope and London tours have much in common, their details differ. Other branches offer similar tours but either they do not hold them annually or their tours started only a few years ago.

There are now two well defined variants of the traditional house/walking tour. Soon after it was founded, Quinte started holding walking (occasionally driving) tours on the third Sunday of each month in different parts of the 'Quinte region'. The tours are free, take place ten or eleven times a year, concentrate on the outside of buildings and sometimes attract over 100 people. They are similar in many ways to the walking tours which Toronto branch has organized in different parts of the city for many years. On the other hand, when North Waterloo and Brant branches use the term "house tour" they usually mean an in-depth tour of a single house or a sequence of houses open on different occasions. Attendance is restricted to a small group of members and frequently there is a charge to take part.

Several branches arrange tours for their members out of town and one branch (Toronto) has even arranged tours outside the province. Some, particularly Port Hope, have organized tours for visitors to their town.

Other Activities

The activities of the branches appear to be restricted only by the time and money available. They include:

- (a) various successful attempts to preserve threatened buildings or parts of buildings, including North

Waterloo's method of preserving a building and making money for the branch at the same time by finding a purchaser for the property (Port Hope, North Waterloo, Durham, Quinte, London);

- (b) workshops (Hamilton-Niagara and Brant);
- (c) awards for achievement in some aspect of architectural conservation (Brant, Toronto, Hamilton-Niagara, Durham);
- (d) co-operation with other groups on lectures and projects, including Toronto's work with the Toronto Historical Board on the City of Toronto Act which restricts the demolition of designated commercial buildings (Cambridge, Durham, Toronto, London, Port Hope, Huron);
- (e) emphasizing the educational role of the ACO through publications and working in various ways with school classes (Durham, Port Hope, Cambridge, Brant);
- (f) setting up Community Heritage Funds (Cambridge, Port Hope);
- (g) initiating municipal by-laws (e.g. Cambridge - Height Restriction By-law).

The above list does not claim to be complete. In addition to these activities branches have hired summer students, taken part in Heritage Week activities and are now preparing books for publication.

Notes on membership and activities would doubtless have been more interesting if they had been accompanied by comments and suggestions but that must wait for my final report. Even this simple report may be of some interest to members, including branch executives.

Julia Beck, Intern

Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund is operating and the Committee has been active in considering applications and seeking suitable candidates for its support in the building conservation field. The basic terms required are that the building involved shall be suitable for designation and that its designation under Part 4 or Part 5 of the Ontario Heritage Act shall be applied for.

It was regretted that such terms could not be met in the case of the Barracks in Newburgh for the owner, and his helpers and advisors, did not wish to consider this heritage protection and our fund was not able to contribute to the project. The ACO can be credited perhaps with the restoration of the hip roof shape, but original detail has not been restored and some additional interior material has been lost.

A more fortunate outcome will be forthcoming for the Lines House project in Kingston under the wing of the Frontenac Historic Foundation where support has been pledged in that endeavour. Currently explorations of the possible exterior restoration of a London area general store are underway. A private owner of an 1857 house in the north Whitby area is also hoping to use the fund's advantageous

interest rates to help in a major restoration task. Other projects are also under review, including the Sheave Tower in Blair (Cambridge) and the St. Marys Junction Station.

Any enquiries should be directed to the chairman:

Mr. R.J.W. Sculthorpe,
RR3, Port Hope,
Ontario L1A 3V7
(416) 885-6960

or to the Head Office of The ACO (416) 367-8075

The Advisory Board

The Advisory Board and its members continue to investigate a number of requests for assistance in studying older buildings and reporting on appropriate conservation measures. Many items relate to private properties where owners are seeking guidance or wish to explore the possibilities of preservation. Others respond to calls for assistance in saving historic buildings or making presentations to authorities which may be concerned.

Examinations and reports, though time-consuming even on the modest scale the Advisory Board can undertake, are often of great interest and provide an opportunity for members to have a direct influence on the conservation of our historic buildings. Sometimes the Board can lead support for greater challenges than the case immediately at hand or head off an embarrassing confrontation where facts do not quite support emotion, for the conservation field is full of enthusiasts who speak loudly and often well, but still need solid information behind them.

A minimum contribution of \$100.00 plus the expenses of the member involved is sought for each consultation. Please address any requests to the Chairman,

Mrs. A.K. Sculthorpe
RR3, Port Hope,
Ontario L1A 3V7
(416) 885-6960

AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

Amherstburg:

Finally the Gordon House has been moved to its new site further up the main street where the building may be restored in part. This is the second structure to be relocated to allow a motel to expand, the late 18th century storey-and-a-half house of Dr. Park having been taken over by the Amherstburg Historic Sites Association some years ago and restored as an historic house display.

Too bad the motel owner could not have explored a scheme with the town to keep the Gordon House in situ, but now the Spanish Hacienda Style premises may expand to give Amherstburg a strangely Latin bias.

Belleville

After many vicissitudes the City of Belleville is now calling for the demolition of the historic structure, now known as the Cablevue Building, facing City Hall and completed in 1872 by none other than John Forin, the builder of the City Hall itself. This building and one around the corner on Bridge Street (now Dinkel's restaurant) by the same master builder, have handsome ground floor arcades in stone, the Cablevue Building also having a carriageway.

Because of its proximity to City Hall, the City considered additional space for its offices in the Cablevue Building at one time though many elected officials favoured an open civic square instead. One fatuous proposal suggested splitting the Cablevue Building in two and drawing it apart as the frame of the square, this split personality to become the faces of two new buildings. Incidentally the carriageway was lost in the process, presumably because a half arch might be just too embarrassing.

Various negotiations for redevelopment entertained by the City in cooperation with developers seem to have come to naught or at least to have been frustrated by the City trying to up the ante as the value of the Cablevue Building it purchased several years ago continues to rise in an inflated market. It would appear that there is a special opportunity for downtown preservation here with three eminent buildings by a single builder in close proximity, two whose future seems assured and a third begging for conservation.

Tenders for demolition are being sought apparently, but at the time of writing the building still stands.

Your immediate letter of protest or conciliatory response demanding thorough re-examination of the issue, addressed to:

The Mayor and Council,
City of Belleville,
City Hall,
169 Front Street,
Belleville, Ontario K8N 2Y8

would be appreciated.

Brantford

The City of Brantford has engaged Townpride, a consortium of architects, landscape architects, planners and other consultants to investigate the possibility of creating a Heritage Conservation District for Brant Avenue (familarly known locally as Brant Ave., pronounced Brant-av). This entrance from the west to the main commercial centre has considerable architectural merit representing a remarkable cohesion yet variety in its mainly mid and late Victorian residential buildings. The pressure of change and redevelopment haunts this section of the city as well as the demands for traffic circulation. The Study of the area is underway and some outline of principles for dealing with the problems has been developed.

Kingston

The Frontenac Historic Foundation is undertaking the moving and, it is hoped, the future restoration of the Lines House originally located on Ontario Street, at the corner of Earl, south of the City Hall. The building is in two sections, one a house frame, the other more like a barn in its framing which may indicate it could have been moved from an earlier location. The house is a late eighteenth century structure and believed to be the earliest surviving domestic building in Kingston. It will be relocated in a public park and it is to be used as a Community Information Centre, the exterior to be restored and part of the interior ultimately to be set up as an historic house appropriately furnished. Regrettably the original setting of the building has been ruined by redevelopment spurred by earlier grossly over-scaled waterfront building which also saw the destruction of the Counter House, home of Kingston's first mayor, and the pre-empting of the City Hall's dominance of the lower town.

The A.C.O.'s Heritage Fund is helping in the Lines House project.



The Lines House, Kingston
From the north-east, on its original site

Maitland

Between Maitland and Brockville on Highway 2 stands the fascinating group of buildings known as Burnside. On the south side of the road is the handsome storey-and-a-half stone house with fanlight and sidelights to the entrance and its south front facing the St. Lawrence River. The house is of the early nineteenth century, c. 1820, with exquisite interior detail of the Loyalist Style including a formal dining room with alcove and flanking doors which a more recent owner saw fit to convert to a rather jazzy modern kitchen, but we like to recall this as reversible in a future restoration.

The house is set back from the highway and even earlier outbuildings, one recorded as a candle factory, fill in the west side of the courtyard setting. However the most memorable feature, and always welcomed by anyone travelling by, is the enclosure on the north side of the highway, a magnificent complex of farm buildings constructed about 1860 around their own barnyard fronted along the highway by a battlemented wall and entered through an archway. The main barn behind is a fine rebuilding with a Dutch or gambrel roof of the turn of the

century, the flanking smaller barns and sheds of the earlier date. Regrettably there is a move on to demolish the barn complex, or at least the courtyard to destroy forever this unique and distinguished historic grouping. The barns may no longer be fulfilling their agricultural function so that essential repairs have not been made over the years. But it would seem possible to sever this part from the rest of the property to permit its proper preservation. Certainly the site is worthy of designation and such conservation could be assisted. The township in which it is located, namely Augusta, where the old Town Hall was featured on the cover of Acorn VII-3 should be made aware of its significance and a campaign mounted to save this architectural treasure. You may help by writing to the Reeve and Council, The Township of Augusta, RR2 Prescott, Ontario, K0A 1T0 mentioning your concern and interest.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

With over two hundred new hotel rooms coming into the local marketplace in the next two or three years the old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is being subjected to a bad case of overdevelopment. But what can you do with a prodevelopment council operating under an official plan which pays barely lip service to historical concerns. The town, now including the rural area of former Niagara Township, is trying to update the official plan but it is doubtful whether much improvement will be afforded the old town area. However there are strong local rumblings of support for better management of this historic resource: just wait for developments.

In the meantime a sprawling eighty-bed old-age home has carved off another six acres of the Common adjacent to the Shaw Festival Theatre despite strong local opposition. But that is not the only fiasco being promoted these days: it seems even the church wants to add to the debacle. Currently under consideration is a thirty-five suite apartment building behind the Old Rectory on Byron Street (featured on the cover of Acorn I-3), adjoining St. Mark's Anglican Church. The building being promoted is a three-storey ell-shaped structure facing the back corner of the rectory lot. It will create the highest density in the old town, yet no local residents nearby were ever consulted. Ostensibly to be available for older people on the leasehold basis the figures so far worked out do not appear to help those in the old town most in need. Stated by at least one of its promoters to be a business venture it would seem that even the church has been tainted by the crass commercialism tending to destroy this honourable and universally loved community. Strangely the promoters for the most part are newcomers to the town, unaware of the opposition which can develop in this closely knit community.

The scheme considers the old Rectory as the new development's social and recreational centre playing a subservient role to the whole complex. Needless to say there is a fairly generous and as yet little used open space behind the Rectory. Past and present incumbents have never used

this to the full, but have always enjoyed its amenity. Some years ago a joint venture with developers was sought, but came to naught -the developers wished to own the land outright. A group from the church instead of investigating various alternatives and presenting these to the church's vestry of parishioners elected to pursue this most recent exploration. When presented, opposition began to mount as the overbearing scale of the project and its seemingly commercial approach emerged.

It would seem appropriate to explore alternatives including a modest development of the lands in question better able to cater to the needs of those in the community who should be looked after in their later years but who can still care for themselves. It is hoped that St. Mark's will come to its senses.

That is not the only local hazard to the protection of the historic resource of old Niagara-on-the-Lake however. Despite a Heritage Conservation District Plan being in place in the Queen-Picton area, town and regional government authorities still go about their business as though nothing has changed. So majestic trees are replaced by quick-growing mopheads and parking lot layouts are cast in concrete without any possibility of review by LACAC and helpful comments on behalf of the community. Yes it is indeed time for the proper management of this historic resource before further irreparable damage is done.

Picton

Truth is stranger than fiction it is said - and if the ploys of council authorities are anything to go by a recent Prince Edward County example fits the bill. The County, needing to repair the roof of the old Registry Office, now housing the County of Prince Edward Archives, took the original slate roof off and replaced it with asphalt shingle despite the building being designated. Slate roofs can be repaired and funds are available for this from the P.O.A. (Preserving Ontario's Architecture) program.

One wonders if the County bothered to investigate this at all or as it says not seeing the slate roof described specifically in the designation did not consider it architecturally or historically significant. Really! After all the interest in HASPE (the Historical Architectural Survey of Prince Edward) and its outcome *The Settler's Dream*, this is unforgivable, and such a black mark is a very poor example to the community. And in Picton's sesquicentennial year too!!

Stratford

Jim Anderson, Stratford-Perth archivist, has written about the recent installation of a plaque and public viewing of an historic house he helped restore at 77 Brunswick Street in Stratford. It is an 1866 Greek Revival storey-and-a-half with a rear lean-to creating a saltbox. Keith and Norma Cardiff are now the owners and have furnished it with their extensive collection of Victorian furniture, adding such decorative touches as a stencilled floor to the kitchen. The house is an unusual find in the centre of a town such as

Stratford and a welcome surprise: we came upon it *sans* doorcase shortly before it was finished.

Of special interest was the announcement of the May 1988 reopening of the Queen's Inn at 161 Ontario Street in Stratford, stated to be the oldest existing hotel in the city. The premises are being refurbished by Crozier Taylor of the well-known Elora Mill Country Inn and Restaurant.

Toronto

Toronto seems to be neglecting its own these days, for we watch the old lighthouse on Lakeshore Road just west of Bathurst Street deteriorating further each time we pass. The building is attributed to Kivas Tully, its date of construction about 1860. It stands on its original site marking the line of the original lakeshore before extensive land filling occurred. This has tempted some to suggest it should be moved to a new but irrelevant location nearer the water's edge. (You may remember a similar specious argument voiced in concerns for Fort York some years ago: fortunately sense and sensibility prevailed then).

Your concerns for the preservation of the old Lighthouse should be referred to:

Scott James, Managing Director
Toronto Historical Board,
Exhibition Place,
Toronto, Ontario. M6K 3C2

Whitby

Metro Toronto's growing fringe continues to repeat its history of heritage destruction. However little is now left on Mississauga and Oakville, they are fast following suit. The rot is spreading east too. Only a short while ago the Perry House, home of the son of Whitby's founder, a building located two blocks from the four corners of Highways 2 and 12, the hub of the old town, was torn down despite a concerted local effort to explore the viability of retaining it as part of an attractive development scheme for the downtown area.

POT-POURRI

NEWS OF INTEREST TO ACO MEMBERS.

Heritage Canada Conference

The annual Heritage Canada Conference for 1987 was held in Quebec City. The theme of the conference was "Developing a Sense of Place". The tours of the City and workshops focused on tourism in a heritage context.

The programme of the main parts of the conference were as follows:

Friday, September 25

9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	Heritage Tourism addresses Mark Laplante Paul-Louis Martin
10:20 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Field Trips
7:30 p.m.	Dinners in Historic Homes

Saturday, September 26

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Panel discussion
10:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Workshops on Field Trips
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Report of Workshops
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Banquet and Awards Presentation

It was generally agreed by participants that the field trips were an outstanding feature of the conference. Groups of approximately eight persons were formed, each accompanied by a guide. This provided for a highly informed insight in how the City was being restored and developed with resulting success and failure. The dinners in historic homes were also memorable, providing for a wonderfully personal experience of enjoying hospitality in a local home. The workshops on Saturday were held for each group, and a number of preset questions were addressed related to the field trips the preceding day. The summary of the groups' workshop findings were then presented on the Saturday afternoon.

The weather was sunny and bracing, the historic cityscape beautiful, the cuisine a delight and the conference content and organization excellent.

Analysis

Heritage Tourism was the main focus of the group tours and workshops. The following is a summary of some of the main discussion points that emerged.

Partnership of Heritage and Tourism

There should be a close working partnership between tourism and heritage conservation activity. This partnership would strengthen both respective roles, particularly where tourism depends on heritage as a key tourist attraction.

Rural/Urban Interplay

The countryside, small towns, and rural towns can be developed as a successful antidote to the more intense urban tourist experience. Participants indicated the concern of tourism burn-out and how a bucolic rural experience could provide a welcome relief.

Emphasis on Genuineness

Of interest and concern, to participants was the "flexibility" of preservation genuineness. Much of the historic lower town buildings have been restored and rebuilt with exposed stone walls. The original wall finish however, was white-washed stucco on stone. Stone was chosen as more romantic. This lack of genuineness pervades much conservation. A more accurate interpretation is now sought in preservation even if it runs counter to our perception of historic.

Personal Contact

Personal encounters with local residents were considered the most successful and memorable experiences for the tourist. This would include not only the common encounter with waiters, tour guides and storekeepers but with families

at bed-and-breakfast establishments. Participants believed that personal contact was probably the most enduring memory of a trip ahead of cultural experiences.

Concern for the Local Resident

A major concern of tourism is its impact on the local community. In major tourist centres such as Quebec City, the enormous volume of tourists has caused significant stress on local residents, many of whom no longer live in the old City because of noise, traffic, invasion of privacy, congestion and a loss of *communitas* - a sense of belonging. This is counterproductive to tourism which seeks local ambience and genuineness.

Development Control

New development should be carefully designed to blend in with the historic building context. In general Quebec City has achieved a successful synthesis of new and old development. The new high-rise Hilton Hotel is an exception. It towers over the Parliament building and ancient city walls destroying the skyline of historic towers and church steeples.

The Whole Experience

Heritage tourism is not just looking at old buildings. It is a larger experience in which heritage plays an important role. This larger experience includes cuisine, car parking, pedestrian amenity, local attitudes towards the tourist etc. . . An effective tourist strategy must therefore embrace the many sensations and activities that comprise the whole experience.

Special Events - Often Misplaced

Special events, as major drawing cards for tourists, have become a popular and often successful ingredient of tourism promotion. In Quebec City, it has been found, however, that some special events such as a popular music concert conflict with the high quality tourism profile the City has developed. A conflict of tourism events sour. A carefully developed strategy can be undone. It is important that tourists' events be evaluated and developed within a broader defined strategy, so that they mesh comfortably together, not so much in terms of timing but character.

Role of Heritage Groups

Heritage groups have an important role to play in heritage-related tourism. In particular, participants identified the skill of heritage groups to bring accurate interpretation to heritage work. Accurate interpretation was defined as the collective, often personal, knowledge that comes from heritage group members that is not found in the history book. Members of heritage groups were also considered a vital part of the person-to-person encounter savoured by heritage tourism.

Heritage Tourism Feed-Back

Too often, it was found by participants, heritage tourist strategies and activities are financed and put into place without any real insight into their effectiveness. These comments relate to the whole experience discussed earlier where weak parts of the tourist experience such as lack of

character accommodation or interesting restaurants can weaken a well thought out heritage building tour. All facets of the whole experience should be developed in concert. To monitor the situation requires effective and ongoing feedback from the tourist.

Off Season Tourism

Much tourism, it was observed, suffers from a short, intense visitor period in summer followed by a long dormant period. This deters the establishment of high quality tourist facilities due to a lack of sustained income. Measures to change this included the development of the Urban/Rural interplay. In Quebec City, this interplay was being realized by skiing during the day in the rural ski areas but with accommodation and cuisine in the City. The concept has to be carefully designed, sold and implemented.

Nicholas Hill
Heritage Planner
City of Saint John, N.B.

News of our Immediate Past President

R. Nicholas (Nick) Hill
Heritage Planner
City of Saint John,
City Hall,
P.O. Box 1971,
Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 4L1

Nick now enjoys the air of the oldest incorporated city in Canada and many breezes have been blowing there since 1784.

Winner of the 1987 Gabrielle Léger Medal: A.J.H. (Jack) Richardson

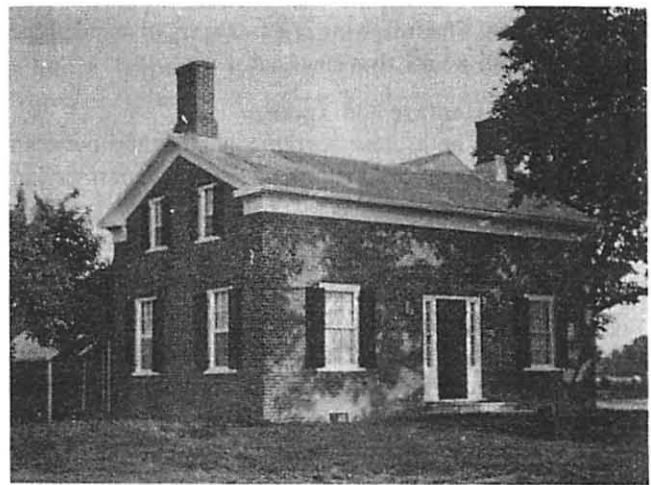
We are delighted to learn of Jack Richardson's award at the Heritage Canada 1987 meeting held in Quebec City in late September. As Canada's No. 1 architectural historian it is not too soon for him to have received this honour, Canada's highest award in the heritage conservation field. For anyone who has known Jack as a colleague, as an advisor or as a fellow spirit will admit to this. He has a phenomenal comparative knowledge of Canada's early building history backed by a capacity and depth of research second to none. Just ten minutes sharing his information is a seminar on the subject and he always gives freely of his knowledge, ever excited by his findings as yet another fragment of fact he finds fits into place and solves the complexities of our building history. His work *Quebec City: Architects, Artisans and Builders* (available from Parks Canada) and the companion volume *Vieux Québec, son Architecture Intérieure*, are indications of the scope of his studies. His early stint in the Dominion Archives and positions in the Historic Sites Division, later to become part of Parks Canada in Ottawa, have given him opportunity for continuing research. Now retired officially, he still carries on his vocation and favourite occupation: the Gabrielle Léger Medal was well won by this master. Our congratulations to Jack Richardson in his signal honour.

ONTARIO BUILDING STYLES

Later neo-Classic or neo-Classical Vernacular 1830-1860

The strong influence of the Georgian period which persisted is reflected in the formal treatment of façades and even layouts which continued for many decades and may still be seen in more lowly forms of housing until almost the end of the nineteenth century. In so many cases this formality, reflected in a symmetrical front, may be the form upon which more picturesque decoration is hung. Take away this appliqué and the design is back to the neo-Classical archetype. However it is no longer strictly Georgian but a variant of the Renaissance prototype, perhaps best described as Later neo-Classic to differentiate it from the neo-Classical Revival of the twentieth century. Many of the features of the Later neo-Classic originated with the Georgian tradition, but rightfully cannot be given the latter title.

This fourth category of design into which so many of Port Hope's and the province's, buildings belong could also be described as neo-Classical Vernacular, essentially a simplified version in the ordinary building mode of the time, but still subscribing to regularity in fenestration and the disposition of openings, neo-Classical details of cornices and still with marked emphasis of entrances in most cases. The typical roof form is a hip or cottage roof, although the gable continues.



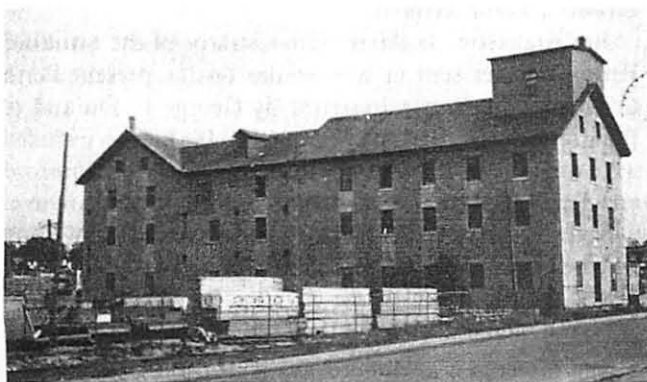
The epitome of the Later neo-Classic in the Niagara Peninsula: Henderson House, 1859, near Wellandport

In Port Hope this aspect of design frequently overlaps expressions of the Greek Revival and it becomes difficult to distinguish between the two since often their influences are combined. Hence a pilaster treatment to building fronts may be accompanied by tall narrow windows which tends towards the Greek Revival. Equally evident in the town is the exploration of decorative motifs such as pointed gable windows or even openings with a distinct Tudor outline to the head and lace bargeboards which herald the Gothic Revival, whereas the building still exhibits a symmetry and regularity characteristic of the neo-Classic. More precise definition is difficult to establish for the major building period of Port Hope during the mid-nineteenth century



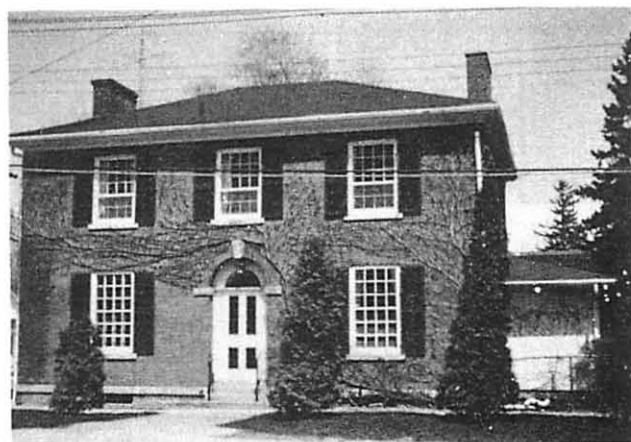
Formality of Port Hope's Later neo-Classic: No. 118 Walton Street, 1841

which, generally, was a time for innovation, mainly in layout and in some minor respects in structural systems, but principally in the exploration of decorative detail. This last was in the hands of builders and craftsmen trying not only to make a name for themselves but to please a clientele with individual tastes. With quite limited resources the examples in pattern books and historic illustrations becoming more readily available served as inspiration: the permutations and combinations increased the variants possible, not only in decorative openings but in the notable ornamental brickwork of the town. During the neo-Classical period this eclecticism was still dignified and disciplined although its inspiration was no longer purely from classical models or the Renaissance prototypes: the Classical vernacular while preserving a certain regularity in composition takes aboard a miscellany of detail from other sources. It might be appropriate to describe such manifestations by a subtitle or additional attribution which outlines the direction in which the detail points. Otherwise one might see a perfectly formal



Neo-Classical Vernacular: Thorold mill, mid-nineteenth century, the formal functional tradition.

Port Hope cottage front with a pointed arch to the window in the gable wrongly attributed to the Gothic Revival albeit related to a prominent decorative detail, whereas in fact the building really subscribes to the Later neo-Classic or neo-Classical Vernacular.

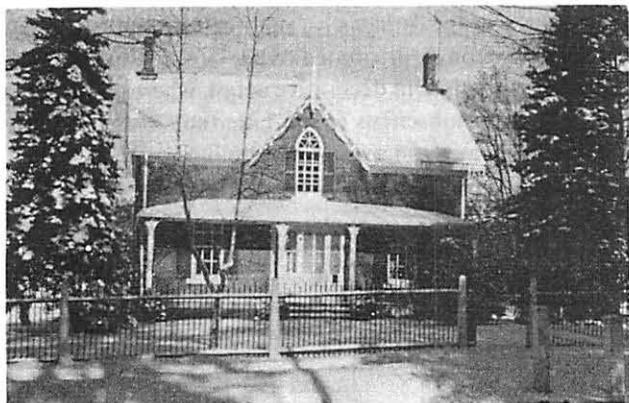


Neo-Classic regularity: echoes of earlier influences in the Blain House, 1835, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Interior details will vary substantially from decade to decade and may take on the colour of concurrent Revivals. At the earliest stage the Loyalist influence is still strong, but mouldings are slightly bolder in profile. Doors are usually six-panel designs but later four-panel forms supersede these, the upper panels longer, combining effectively the longer and shorter upper panels and intermediate rail into a single panel. Windows tend to have larger glass as the period advances and a pattern of six panes over six becomes common to fronts or principal rooms, but inferior parts of the building may still have smaller, and incidentally cheaper, glass. Hardware in earlier houses includes rim locks complete with brass knobs and thumb latches, the latter in later years of cast types. Later on cast iron rim locks or mortise locks predominate and the familiar porcelain knob, in white, tiger (or Bennington brown) or black appear.



Port Hope variants of the Later neo-Classic
Classical dignity and detail in the Forge House, c. 1850 Ridout Street.



Gothic relief in the Scott House, c. 1855, Lakeshore Road.



A touch of Greek and a hint of Gothic, c. 1850, Baldwin Street.



Builder's fancy, the delight of the eclectic where Greek meets Gothic, in a c. 1855 Ontario Cottage, Armour Street.

Peter John Stokes

Reprinted courtesy The ACO Port Hope Branch

Ontario Association of Archivists

It also happens a new O.A.A. has appeared on the scene. This is the Ontario Association of Archivists founded in 1982. The Ontario Association of Architects might well take umbrage and we wonder why the Companies Branch of Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations did not catch this one. Perhaps the archivists should be the Association of Ontario Archivists or AOA to save any

further confusion and possible future embarrassment. The Archivists' association can be reached at the following address:

Membership Secretary, OAA
705 - 737 Ouellet Avenue,
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6T2

New Home for Ontario Genealogical Society who have just completed transcribing more than 3000 of Ontario's 5000 cemeteries.

New Library opens in North York - Toronto

Central Library of North York Public Library, Toronto, reopened in June in the new City Centre. The library is fully accessible to the handicapped. The complete top (6th) floor is devoted to the Gladys Allison Canadiana Room (416-766-5623). This special library includes collections of materials of genealogical interest. Complementing Canadiana's own holdings are those of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Mayflower Society and the York Pioneer Society - all maintained and serviced by the Canadiana specialist librarians.

The growing Ontario Genealogical Society collection includes many items related to assisting persons trace families in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe. The O.G.S. (416-489-0734) is a non-profit voluntary organization whose 5100 members share an interest in genealogy and family history. It operates under the Corporation Act of Ontario and receives financial support from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. It is registered as a charitable organization and is authorized to issue Canadian income tax receipts for all dues and any additional donations.

The Society issues quarterly a journal *Families* and a newsletter *Newsleaf*. A network of twenty-six branches operates across the province and an annual three-day seminar is held in May. The Society has transcribed more than 3000 of the 5000 Ontario cemeteries and has just completed the indexing of the 1871 census by county.

For further information regarding membership and dues, write: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 40 Orchard View Blvd., Suite 253, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4R 1B9. Mr. D. Grant Brown is Librarian of the O.G.S.

Stratford Perth Archives

Jim Anderson, Archivist-administrator of the Stratford Perth Archives sent us a brochure on the present Perth County Court House, designed by George F. Durand of London, Ontario and opened in May 1887. Also included were other interesting information folders of the Stratford and Perth County area including one about the Archives with headquarters in Stratford and divisions in Listowel and Mitchell and which includes a list of publications about the locality, another on Perth County, a walking tour of Stratford, and one about Shakespeare, Ontario.

This material is apparently available from The Stratford Perth Archives at 24 St. Andrew Street, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 1A3.

Books of Interest

Rogues' Hollow, the Story of the Village of Newburgh, Ontario through its Buildings, published in 1983 by The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., is still in print and available by writing to Head Office at

10 Adelaide Street East,

Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

or telephoning (416) 367-8075. Copiously illustrated, the book, for those unfamiliar with Newburgh, will give an excellent description of the village and would make any visit more worthwhile. The work could form a useful background for such studies as those needed for a Heritage Conservation District. Available for \$25.00 plus \$1.00 for handling or \$100.00 for the special limited edition accompanied by a print, one of the limited numbered series, of Howard V. Walker's sketch of Phalen's Blacksmith Shop beside the Napanee River. All proceeds now go to The ACO's Acorn Endowment Fund.

The Settler's Dream. A Pictorial History of the Older Buildings of Prince Edward County, published in 1984 by the County of Prince Edward is also still available. Price is \$45.00 including postage. Write to:

The County of Prince Edward,

Drawer 1550,

Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0

Available also through Ballenford Architectural Books, 98 Scollard Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5R 1G2 (416-960-0055).

Ghost Ships Hamilton and Scourge: Historical Treasures from the War of 1812, by Emily Cain (Beaufort Books) Toronto 1983, Musson, A Division of General Publishing Co.

This is a fascinating book weaving the threads of documentation and discovery into the history of Great Lakes trading in the early nineteenth century, giving a vivid background of Upper Canada's early development as well as a dramatic description of the events of the War of 1812 on the Lakes, particularly regarding the role of the ghost ships, Hamilton and Scourge.

Lines House Restoration Appeal

From the Frontenac Historic Foundation

Originally located on Ontario Street at Earl in Kingston this 200 year old house of Nathaniel Lines, Indian Agent, will be moved to a new city park on Anglin's Bay at North Street.

The Frontenac Historic Foundation is joining with the Province, the city and the developer to provide funds to save this oldest house in Kingston. We expect our members and friends to give leadership in this special appeal.

Please Help!!

And send your cheque to

FRONTENAC HISTORIC FOUNDATION

Box 27 Kingston K7L 4V6

The LINES HOUSE FUND

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 \$_____

A Tax receipt will be issued.

Janet Underwood Memorial Fund

The nineteenth century kitchen of the residence block of University College in Toronto is to be restored with its lofty pyramidal ceiling lighted by a central lantern in the roof. Plans are to refurbish it to serve as "an unusual and distinguished lecture hall" and to install a suitably inscribed plaque dedicating it to Janet Underwood, noted for her enthusiasm and effort devoted to a great many institutions, especially University College and the National Ballet.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$55,000.00 and contributions are being sought to help in the work. Donations will be tax-deductible and if you would like to assist please make your cheque out to:

"U.C. Alumni Association - Janet Underwood Memorial Fund"

c/o Prof. Marion Walker,
250 Heath Street West, #702,
Toronto, Ontario M5P 3L4

A receipt will be issued by the University of Toronto.

Positions Available:

The Association for Preservation Technology.

APT Executive Director

Salary: \$30,000 - \$35,000 Canadian, \$23,000 - \$27,000 U.S.

Starting: May 1, 1988

Locations: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada - or Washington, DC

For a detailed job description please write to APT, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W6.

Restoration Material Available

A quantity of hand-made, red brick from the Haldimand area (Cayuga) of a special size 2" x 3 1/2" x 7 1/4". The length is remarkably short, but other buildings in the neighbouring Wainfleet area have similar brick. Approximately 10,000 to 12,000 available at 40c per unit, unsorted, including face and back-up quality, the latter suitable only for interior work. If interested call Jan Kamermans, Hamilton (416) 521-0657.

COMING EVENTS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS

THE 1988 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACO is planned for Saturday and Sunday 14 and 15 of May, 1988.

Watch for further details.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Cambridge: The Making of a Canadian City, by Kenneth McLaughlin: Windsor Publications Inc., Burlington, Ontario. Assisted by Jim Quantrell.

A well illustrated historical account of the communities of Galt, Preston, Hespeler and surroundings now forming the City of Cambridge. 224 pages with more than 100 historic photographs and illustrations.

On Life's Stage: The Autobiography of Adam Ainslie, 1807-1896. Edited by Jim Quantrell, published by City of Cambridge Archives, Cambridge, Ontario. \$9.00, paperback, 91 pages including index, with several black and white illustrations.

This is the interesting account of one of Galt's pioneers, after whom a street in Cambridge is named.

Port Hope, A Treasury of Early Homes. Colour photographs by John de Visser, text by Tom Cruickshank, with archival photographs reproduced in black and white, covering over fifty buildings. \$39.95.

Canada Century Home, Bluestone House, 21 Dorset Street East, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1E2 (416) 885-2928.

Tavern in the Town; Early Inns and Taverns of Ontario. Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers. Photographs by Hugh Robertson. University of Toronto Press.

Another contribution by old collaborators in such books as *Roots*, *Homesteads*, and *The Governor's Road*, this has approximately 150 pages and over 200 illustrations. \$29.95 in cloth.

The Mackenzie Panels: The Strange Case of Niagara's fallen Arch. Mark Frank, 1987, Red Robin Press, Toronto.

This is a documentary about the fate of the Clifton Gate Pioneer Memorial Arch, erected in 1937 and dedicated in 1938, to be destroyed in 1967. In a foreword John Robert Colombo notes "Something of my heritage has been taken away from me..." for it commemorated the struggles of William Lyon Mackenzie, with such artists as Emmanuel Hahn and C.W. Jefferies contributing their talent to the design.

This small but notable book of 48 pages with 37 photographs is a paperback and can be obtained from Red

Robin Press, 24 Shields Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5N 2K2 (416) 487-0625. Price \$9.95.

Traditions in Wood, A History of Wildfowl Decoys in Canada

Edited by Patricia Fleming with Thomas Carpenter, 1987, Camden House Publishers (a division of Telemedia Publishing Inc.) Camden East, Ontario. Cloth \$29.95.

This magnificent Canadian production of almost 200 pages is a most handsome publication to be enjoyed not only for its fascinating content, the decoy subjects beautifully illustrated in colour and with black and white historical photographs, but also for its design. This all started with Patricia Fleming's interest in the artistic merit of the hunting decoy for which we should all be grateful. A more thorough review and appreciation is due. The only flaw noted is the omission of an index by the publisher.

STOP PRESS

On the eve of a detailed examination of the Niagara Parks Commission properties by Raymond Moriyama we have learnt that the Commission has committed itself, somewhat prematurely, to the ruin of the Toronto Generating Station at Niagara Falls (see cover of *Acorn X - 3*, Fall 1985), that powerful monument to early hydro-electric generation above the cataract. The scheme won an award as a concept at the time, but the cost was substantial and it would appear that little concern for continuing maintenance expense or the visual destruction of the rear of the building which faces Table Rock and the American side was ever thoroughly considered.

In the scheme prepared most of the building enclosing over 3,300,000 cubic feet (95,000 cubic metres) of space would be demolished reducing it to the centre office block of roughly one fifth the size and the Beaux Arts neo-Classic front by E.J. Lennox. The cost in 1986 was estimated to be \$9.5 million.

The Niagara Falls Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Club of Niagara Falls-Central had marshalled some members into a management team and put forward a masterful proposal for re-allocating these monies so that it would be a self-generating development making the whole building available for multiple uses and principally a magnificent museum space to do with the history of power generation including a modern demonstration unit, as well as the history of the area and of Niagara Falls. Other groups interested in using the space were also being brought into the scheme.

Despite the show of support for maintaining the whole structure and the interest of other Provincial authorities in doing the same, which the ACO has endorsed as the quotation from the letter below shows, the Niagara Parks Commission is apparently bound and determined to destroy our heritage. It is rather like the story of Niagara's arch

which fell, a case in history which should not be repeated - the William Lyon Mackenzie Arch constructed as a centennial commemoration of the 1837 rebellion in 1937 and demolished in Canada's Centennial year 1967! Now it is just bigger and even worse this time.



The Toronto Generating Station, Niagara Falls
 Photograph courtesy of Spencer Higgins

— “You will have realized that The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is not sympathetic to the proposal to “ruin” this fine building, notwithstanding the capability of the architectural firm commissioned to render a design for such a concept and the excellence of that firm’s reputation and dedication to its task. The following reasons are given for not supporting this idea and for putting forward this request for the alternative of conserving the whole building for its continued yet adaptive use.

First the removal of a substantial portion of the structure is an irreversible act which destroys a very valuable and monumental interior space capable of being put to continued use. The proposal constitutes an unacceptable waste of a built resource.

Secondly such a proposal to remove a large part of the building results in the destruction of a valuable artifact of considerable architectural merit and historical significance.

Thirdly the high cost of its reduction, including demolition, consolidation and further works to achieve its final development in the proposed scheme, is not condoned. Such

expenditures as those contemplated could go a long way to achieve conservation of the structure and lead towards its further utilization as a whole building.

Fourthly the proposal would involve continuing maintenance of the surviving parts which will be a constant problem and might involve further difficulties in the conservation of what remains. The upkeep of the proposed landscaped areas is yet another responsibility.

Fifthly the reduced building has a very limited use and cannot help but be a sad reminder of its first and former glory.

Sixthly the rear façade so dismantled would be a confusing landscape element above the Falls and no longer a fitting architectural backdrop to the main cataract itself and the rapids above.

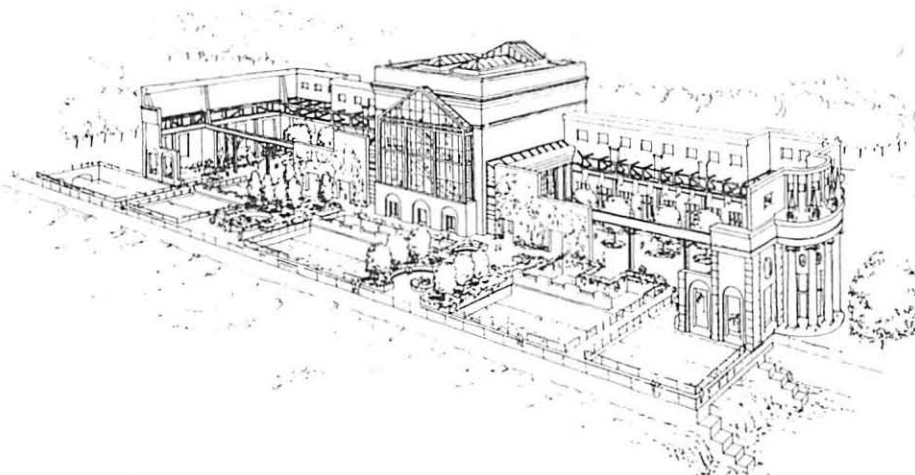
Seventhly the Province, Ontario Hydro and the City of Niagara Falls have the good fortune to have this early twentieth century example of Canadian enterprise as a part of the heritage of this country and it is in their best interests to support its proper conservation and appropriate continued use.” —

Just to keep the record straight we see fit to reproduce the published aims of the Niagara Parks Commission which we picked up recently from one of their well-run properties.

It seems heritage conservation is pretty high on their list. Or doth this many-headed hydra speak with forked tongue? All nine points are germane to this current concern and should be paramount in the Commission’s consideration of the future of the Toronto Generating Station.

Your letter of concern should be addressed immediately to

Ms. Pamela V. Walker,
 Chairman,
 Niagara Parks Commission,
 P.O. Box 150,
 Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6T2



Toronto Generating Station: scheme by The Thom Partnership

Courtesy of Ontario Hydro

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

The Niagara Parks Commission, established in 1885, has had a unique and exciting history. From an original "acorn" of a mere 62 hectares (154 acres), the Parks System is now a mighty "oak" that encompasses slightly more than 1130 hectares (2800 acres) along 56 kilometres (35 miles) of the Niagara River. Included in this system today are historic sites, golf courses, marina, camp grounds, swimming beaches, picnic areas, restaurants, gift shops, horticultural gardens and school, significant natural areas and attractions.

The Commission's goals are as follows:

- 1) To maintain, preserve, and enhance the beauty and surroundings of the Canadian Niagara Falls and the Niagara River, from Fort Erie to Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- 2) To develop, operate and maintain a system of park and recreation areas, historic sites and educational facilities which complement the natural wonders of the Niagara Falls and the Niagara River, and which will facilitate and add to the visitor's enjoyment.
- 3) To provide those wishing to view and enjoy the splendor of Niagara Falls an opportunity to do so with ease.
- 4) To provide a broad range of educational opportunities for people in the fields of horticulture, geology, natural history, and the history of the Niagara area.
- 5) To continually seek new methods and means for improving the visitor's experience when visiting the Falls area.
- 6) To encourage complementary uses of lands adjacent to the Parks System, and to work with other groups and agencies who have compatible interests in the park area.
- 7) To insure a suitable first and/or last impression for the many millions of foreign visitors to Ontario and Canada crossing the borders along the Niagara Frontier.
- 8) To encourage and promote the development of the tourism industry in Ontario and Canada.
- 9) To pursue the self-sustaining nature of the Parks System while recognizing the limitations of compatible and suitable revenue producing facilities and the long range need for capital improvements.

The present Niagara Parks Commission is continuing the policy of Commissions of former years, namely a dedication to carry out a programme of preservation, restoration, commemoration, beautification, and attraction for the enjoyment of the millions of yearly park visitors from all over the world.

Courtesy Niagara Parks Commission

If you wish to know the address of your nearest branch, write The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., 10 Adelaide St. East, Toronto Ont. M5C 1J3. Telephone (416) 367-8075

Back Issues of ACORN

Anyone wishing to order back issues of ACORN please be advised that the charge will be \$5.00 a copy.

We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.

Please send any change of address to your branch secretary and also to A.C.O. Inc., 10 Adelaide St. East, Toronto Ont. M5C 1J3. In this way it can be put on the master mailing list.

**All submissions to ACORN please send to Editor-in-Chief, ACORN,
244 King Street, (P.O. Box 170), Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0**

If you wish material to be returned please send stamped addressed envelope.

The Heritage Fund

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, is now operating The Heritage Fund.

The Heritage Fund will assist in the restoration of those buildings within the Province of Ontario which have been designated or are pending designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part VI or V.

Funds made available will be based on the general principle that the monies will be used to conserve and restore those distinguishing features described in the designation by-law and for the structural soundness and integrity of the property.

Applications for assistance from the A.C.O. will be received at this time.

Application forms are available from Branch presidents or the Head Office, 10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3. Phone No. (416) 367-8075

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